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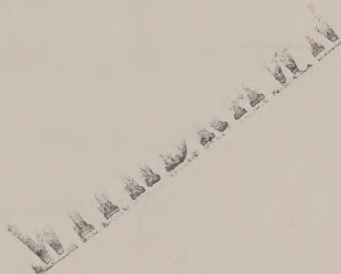
Montgomery County, Maryland

1813

To

1963

*Published on the occasion
of the Sesquicentennial of
St. Mary's Parish
Rockville, Maryland*



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Lithographed by
MOORE & MOORE LITHOGRAPHERS
Washington, D.C.

1963

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 63-18549

The map on the inside front cover was published shortly after the Civil War and indicates the locations of the five Catholic churches in Montgomery County at that time. The pastor at St. Mary's at Rockville also ministered to St. John the Evangelist's, Rock Creek (later Forest Glen), located about eight miles to the southeast of Rockville; to St. Peter's, Hollin's River (later Hawling's River and still later Mt. Zion), eight miles to the northeast; to St. Mary's, Barnesville, fifteen miles to the northwest; and to St. Rose's, Clopper, midway between Barnesville and Rockville.

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Dedication

This book is offered as a tribute to the pioneer priests and parishioners of Montgomery County, Maryland, whose lives of hidden glory will always be an inspiration to priests and parishioners to come.



HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN XXIII



THE MOST REVEREND PATRICK A. O'BOYLE, D.D.



OFFICE OF THE
ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

CHANCERY OFFICE

1721 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

April 16, 1963

Dear Father Hann:

I wish to take this opportunity to express my hearty congratulations and assurance of my blessing upon the pastor, the assistant priests, sisters and devoted parishioners of St. Mary's Parish on the occasion of this glorious commemoration.

St. Mary's Parish, in its long history, has had a notable part in the spiritual development of the Catholics of Montgomery County. Its influence has been very extensive and many sections have been beneficiaries of the apostolic work of its zealous clergy and loyal parishioners. The history that has been compiled of the parish will thus be instructive as well as inspiring.

I wish particularly, however, to express my appreciation of the assiduous efforts of the whole parish -- the pastor, assistant priests and cooperative parishioners -- for their significant achievements. These achievements, whose material evidence in the buildings constructed is so striking, have benefited spiritually not only the parishioners but many others in the community.

I wish to assure all the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish of my remembrance of them in my prayers and of a pledge of my blessing as they enlarge their contribution to the kingdom of God.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Patrick J. O'Boyle
Archbishop of Washington

Rev. J. G. Hann
St. Mary's Church
Rockville, Maryland



THE MOST REVEREND PHILIP M. HANNAN, V.G.



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

CHANCERY OFFICE
1721 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

February 26, 1963

Reverend J. Gilbert Hann
Pastor
Saint Mary's Rectory
520 Viers Mill Road
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Father Hann:

It is a great pleasure, especially as a former parishioner, to avail myself of this opportunity to express my congratulations on the publication of the history of Saint Mary's Parish in Rockville. From every aspect, the parish deserves to have its history carefully researched and recorded. The long history of the parish, its achievements, its impact on the State, as well as the immediate surroundings of the national capital, the present great importance of the county whose seat it has so well served--all these factors impel a worthy historical record.

Most importantly, the history will record the sacrifices and active faith of the clergy and devout faithful through many years of progress. The history will, in recording the past, inspire also the future.

With cordial best wishes and an assurance of my prayers,
I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Philip M. Hannan".

Most Reverend Philip M. Hannan
Vicar General



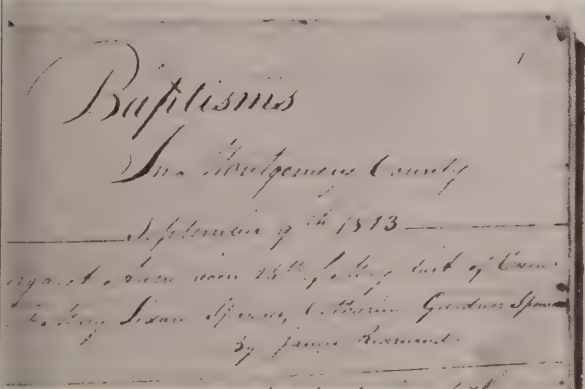
Archbishop John Carroll

1735 - 1815

*First Bishop and Archbishop of Baltimore
and Founder of the American Hierarchy under
whose administration St. Mary's Parish at
Rockville was founded.*

1

History of Saint Mary's



THE official recorded history of St. Mary's parish began on a late summer day in the year 1813. At Georgetown College where he resided at the time, Father James Redmond, the first pastor of St. Mary's, opened a new baptismal register and wrote in bold and beautiful script at the top of the first page, "1813 Baptisms in Montgomery County."

With the writing of that phrase Father Redmond, a young priest less than a year ordained, marked a milestone in the history of the Church

in Maryland. Only five years before, on April 8, 1808, Pope Pius VII had divided the Diocese of Baltimore and established the Sees of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Bardstown (now Louisville), Kentucky. The See of Baltimore had been raised at the same time to an archdiocese presided over by the venerable founder of the American hierarchy, Archbishop John Carroll. The Archbishop, who had labored as a young priest in Montgomery County, was now in his late seventies and was nearing the end of a long and distinguished career.

The growth of the Church was evident on both the national and local levels. The time had now come when the number of Catholics in Montgomery County had so far increased as to require the exclusive services of a pastor. Father Redmond was the first priest to devote

his services entirely to the congregations of the County. He could not have realized, as he recorded the baptisms that late summer day, that one hundred and fifty years later the Catholic residents of Montgomery County would number over 70,000 cared for by over sixty priests in twenty-one parishes.

However, Father Redmond's thoughts were probably not of the growth of the future but rather of the conditions of the present. The population of Montgomery County in 1813 was over 16,000; the number of Catholics was about 400; only after he had thoroughly familiarized himself with his new assignment would the pastor be able to arrive at a more accurate figure.

The Catholics of the County were located mainly in five areas. The oldest congregation was at Rock Creek, about eight miles southwest of Rockville, where families worshipped at the Carroll Chapel, and where they still venerated the memory of the young Father John Carroll, who had ministered to them before he became Bishop of Baltimore. The largest congregation worshipped at St. Mary's located at Barnesville, about fifteen miles northwest of Rockville. Midway between Barnesville and Rockville, the Seneca congregation worshipped in a small brick building located on the Waring estate. The fourth group lived in the Rockville area, where services, lacking a chapel, were conducted in their homes. The smallest congregation resided about eight miles northeast of Rockville, in the district known at that time as Hollin's, later Hawling's, River. There were 130 to 150 Catholics in the Rock Creek congregation, between 60 and 70 at Rockville, which was also called "Adams" at that time, 50 at Seneca, about 160 at Barnesville and 27 at Hollin's River.

It is recorded in his correspondence with the Archbishop of Baltimore that the town of Rockville impressed Father Redmond. He foresaw a growth of population and importance from its central location in the County, as well as its position as County seat.

Father Redmond decided that the first item of business was the schedule of visitations to the five mission stations. He determined to devote one of the four Sundays of the month to each

of the congregations at Rock Creek, Rockville, Barnesville and Seneca. Whenever a fifth Sunday of the month occurred he would visit the Catholics at Hollin's River.

On this demanding schedule, which required travel on horseback over rough roads in all kinds of weather, a schedule that would be followed with little variation by the Rockville pastors for the next fifty years, Father Redmond faithfully attended the congregations entrusted to his care in the four years that followed.

The Carroll Chapel at Rock Creek had so deteriorated at that time that extensive renovation was required. With the help of local Catholics, Father Redmond raised the sum of \$650 for this purpose.

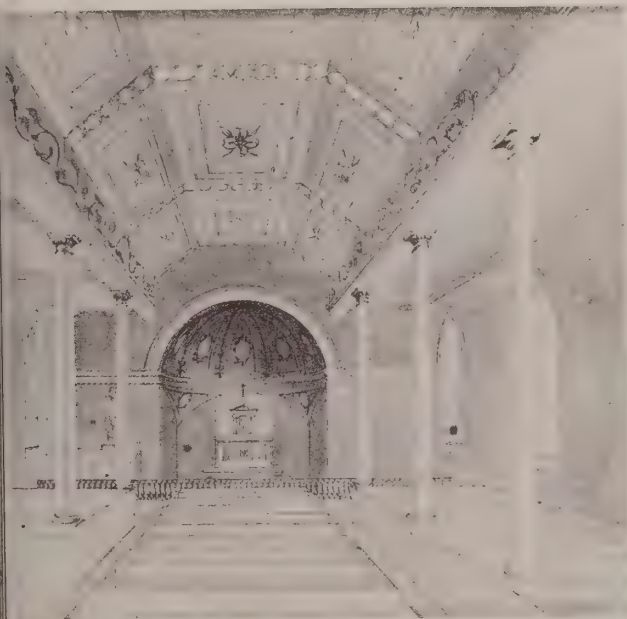
The Montgomery County pastor was also successful in raising money for a new church to be built at Rockville, the County seat. The site he selected was located on the road between Georgetown and Rockville and comprised four acres. Father Redmond purchased the land from Jesse Leach, a member of the congregation, in the spring of 1816 for \$300. The choice of location proved to be a wise one. At that time Maryland had adopted the toll system as a means of building its roads and the present Rockville Pike was one of the first to be completed.

With the help of the Rockville parishioners, the construction of the church began. The architectural style was Georgian and in the customary early American technique the brick arches were hand rubbed to present a different texture from the surrounding brick walls. The use of bricks marked a step forward in Catholic church architecture in the County, since St. Mary's was the first Catholic church to be so constructed.

The name of the new church was chosen by the pastor in honor of the Mother of God.

The main building was fifty-three feet long and thirty-six feet wide. Behind it, the church extended for an area fifteen feet square. This section included a small sacristy on the first floor and a room above, reached by a flight of stairs in back of the church, used as living quarters by the pastor. Both rooms were sur-

1817



ABOVE: *St. Mary's Church as it appeared upon completion in 1817.*
 LOWER LEFT: *Proposed renovation of St. Mary's interior in the early 1870's; sketch by William Rich Hutton of The Woodlands.*
 LOWER RIGHT: *Rear view of St. Mary's Church showing bricked-in window area of original church sacristy.*

mounted by a small steeple. The entire length of the church, including this rear extension, was sixty-eight feet. The outline of the original sacristy is still visible today and is identified by the base and by the window areas, which have been bricked in. A nearby well provided water.

The height of the church was twenty-five feet at the sides with a shingle roof rising to a height of forty feet at the peak. There were four windows along each side of the church and a large window in the front above the main entrance.

The interior roof was supported by three pairs of columns ranged down the spine of the building. There was no center aisle, and the main body of pews extended back from the altar rail. Two side aisles served as entrances to the two sections of pews along the side walls. The completed church seated about one hundred and fifty.

The main body of the church was separated from the sanctuary by a wooden altar rail that ran the full width of the building. A small altar with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary stood in the sanctuary between the gospel side of the altar and the side wall. Arrangements were provided for the installation of several coal stoves in the winter.

A hitching rail for horses was built in the area now occupied by the main wing of St. Mary's School.

The total cost of the new church was \$4,000 of which \$3,000 had been realized when construction began.

Father Redmond offered the first Mass in St. Mary's Church on Sunday, December 14, 1817. The number of Catholics in the Rockville congregation was about 80 at that time.

The mechanics of administering a far flung mission in that era are interesting.

Once a year each of the congregations elected a board of trustees, sometimes referred to as wardens. They were usually the heads of the Catholic families of the congregation. The first board of trustees of St. Mary's congregation included William Carroll, Henry Harding, Zephaniah B. Offutt, Charles H. Wharton, Benedict L. Adams and Augustus Taney. They were elected

at a meeting at the home of Benedict L. Adams on the second Sunday of November, 1815.

The purpose of the trustee system was to assure the financial support of the pastor and the physical upkeep of the churches. This arrangement was necessary because the pastor was away on mission rounds most of the time. Their financial undertaking seems not to have been fulfilled with perfect precision. The original agreement provided that each year the congregations at Rock Creek, Rockville, Barnesville and Seneca would provide the pastor with \$100 from each member of their respective groups, and he was also assured of about \$40 or \$50 by the trustees at Hollin's River. Father Redmond complained that the amount he received was always far below that of the original agreement. He also recorded other difficulties he had encountered among the Montgomery County missions. With the appointment of resident pastors, the trustee system was gradually abandoned.

Besides his monthly visits to the county congregations the needs of Catholics often required Father Redmond to return during the week to render further services. This was especially true of Barnesville, the largest congregation in the County. Usually, however, he would try to accomplish as much as he could on Sunday when the members of the congregation were most available. He began each Sunday morning with the hearing of confessions. Then the Sacrifice of the Mass was offered. The rest of the morning was spent in instructing the children. Following this the pastor was available for consultation to the members of the congregation and, when necessary, the Sacrament of Baptism was conferred. This schedule usually consumed seven or eight hours each Sunday.

Sometimes in the winter, when severe weather made travel impossible, the dead were buried by parishoners in their local cemeteries and the pastor performed the funeral services on his next visit.

After completion of the Rockville church, Father Redmond expressed to Archbishop Ambrose Marechal a desire to labor in another mis-

sion field. Early in 1818, he left Rockville for the missions of Virginia.

Archbishop Marechal selected as Father Redmond's successor Father Michael F. X. Carroll, who at that time was stationed at Newtown in Southern Maryland. Father Carroll arrived in January of 1818 and continued to follow the schedule of visitations arranged by Father Redmond. He lived, during this time, in the priest's quarters at the rear of St. Mary's Church above the sacristy. He also resided in the homes of Catholic parishioners when he was called upon to render priestly ministrations, especially when he was called to remote parts of the County for baptisms, marriages and the administration of the last rites.

During the winter months, it was not unusual for the pastor to be marooned in a farmhouse for several days because of a heavy snowstorm. In the early years of St. Mary's, the priest continued to travel either afoot or on horseback.

During Father Carroll's pastorate, it became evident that the trustee system was becoming obsolete. In accordance with the laws at the time, the trustees were required to record their elections by the congregations with county officials within a period of six months. The trustees at Rockville failed to do this in 1817 and, according to official records, there were no trustees elected by the congregation in 1818. The last recorded meeting of Catholic trustees in Montgomery County was held in 1846.

From the beginning of his pastorate, Father Carroll found the rigors of missionary life a strain upon his health. At the end of two years, he notified Archbishop Marechal of his inability to continue his work and was allowed to return to Southern Maryland. With the assistance of the Archbishop, he was later assigned to the missions of New York State where he worked in the area of Albany.

Upon Father Carroll's departure in October 1819, the County's congregations welcomed as their new pastor, Father Peter John De Vos, who came to St. Mary's from the missions of Southern Maryland. Father De Vos was des-

tined to exercise the longest pastorate in the early history of St. Mary's.

The new pastor visited the congregations of the County with the same fidelity that had marked the pastorates of his predecessors. At times he was called to minister to Catholics in Frederick and Prince Georges Counties. In the fall of 1820, he wrote to Archbishop Marechal to inquire about his authority in such cases. The Archbishop replied that Father De Vos enjoyed jurisdiction in the entire Diocese of Baltimore provided that such ministrations did not infringe upon the rights of pastors who had officially been assigned to designated areas.

Father De Vos also sought the Archbishop's advice on the cemeteries at Rockville and at Barnesville. He reported that he was in doubt that they had been blessed and also requested instructions governing the laws of Christian burial.

In a lengthy reply, the Archbishop instructed Father De Vos to bless the cemeteries at Rockville and at Barnesville according to the Roman ritual, and advised him to surround the cemeteries by walls or by strong fences. He also directed that the members of the congregations be instructed to bury their dead in the church yard instead of on their private estates or plantations; otherwise the deceased were in danger of having their mortal remains profaned and eventually forgotten completely. However, the pastor was permitted to officiate at funerals in private family cemeteries, provided the members of the family guaranteed proper care of the resting places of their dead. The Archbishop closed his letter with instructions that paths should be laid out in cemeteries for the convenience of those who came to pray for the dead, and that horses should not be permitted inside the blessed grounds but tethered outside.

The cemeteries at St. Mary's, Rockville, and at St. Mary's, Barnesville, remain today, blessed by this pioneer priest, containing the remains of the early Catholic residents of the County. It is likely that Father De Vos also blessed the cemetery at Rock Creek, the first and now the oldest Catholic cemeteries of the County.

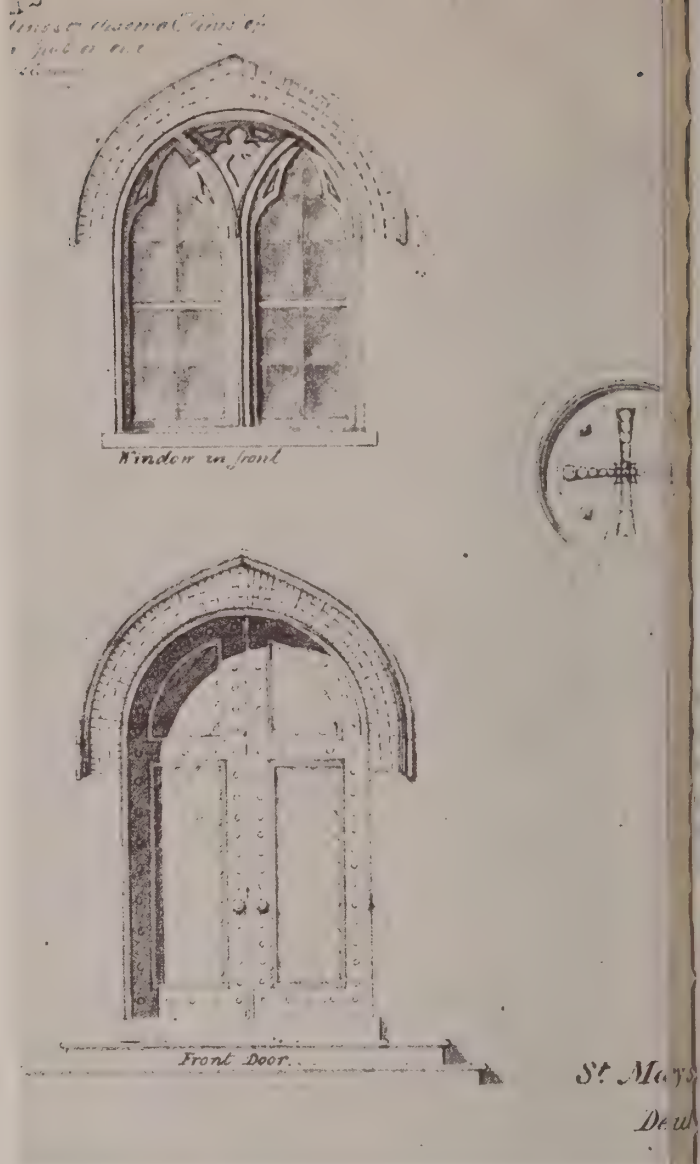
During Father De Vos' early pastorate the gallery at St. Mary's Church was installed, thereby bringing the original plan of the church to completion.

On November 21, 1823, Father De Vos was informed officially by Archbishop Marechal of the election of Pope Leo XII in a letter which described at length the qualities of character of the new head of Christendom. The pastor was also directed to inform his congregations and was given the suggestion that a special Mass be offered or that Vespers be sung in fitting observance of the event.

During the pastorate of Father De Vos, there was a notable rise in the population of Montgomery County. Between 1820 and 1830 the number of residents increased from 16,000 to 19,816. The increase towards the end of the decade was especially rapid. This rather sudden rise in population was due in part to the activity which centered on the construction of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company was organized in 1828. On July 4th of that year President John Quincy Adams formally began the construction of the canal by turning the first shovelful of earth near Little Falls. By historical coincidence the first stone of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was laid in Baltimore on the same day by Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Later that month the roadbed was begun and gradually pushed westward, although it did not reach Montgomery County until after the Civil War. In the end, however, the railroad was destined to prevail in this economic race and the pastors at Rockville would witness the rise and decline of the C & O Canal.

The building of the canal and the railroad brought an influx of Irish immigrant workers into the County and in many instances they brought their families with them. Many of these families spent their entire lives in cottages along the canal. The resulting rise in Catholic population brought additional responsibilities to the pastor at Rockville. According to local tradition, the old cemetery at St. Mary's contains the unmarked graves of several Irish workmen who died during the periodic epidemics



Sketch of St. Mary's front door and window by William Rich Hutton.

that plagued the construction of the canal.

During the 1830's, as the result of the demands of his ministry, Father De Vos' health began to decline. He lived during these years in the priest's quarters above the sacristy in the rear of St. Mary's Church.

Occasionally he resided at the homes of parishioners including Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Clements and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Clopper. Though Mr. Clopper was not Catholic, his estate at Great Seneca, The Woodlands, was the center of Catholic worship in the area. The quiet atmosphere and beautiful surroundings of this farm had a beneficial influence on the pastor's failing health. It was during this time that Francis Cassatt Clopper made the generous



RIGHT: Old St. Mary's Cemetery; foreground site of unmarked graves of Irish laborers who died during building of the C & O Canal.

BELOW: The building of the C & O Canal.



offer of a portion of his land for the construction of a Catholic church. Through the added generosity of Mrs. Ellen Maria Maher, the sister of Mrs. Clopper, St. Rose's Church was built in 1835. The beautiful brick church was the fourth to be built in the County and was an invaluable contribution to the life of the Catholic community at Seneca.

In the fall of 1835, Father De Vos was forced to relinquish his duties as pastor because of illness. He continued to live in the area with the Petticord family, and rendered such services as his health would permit. His health continued to decline and he died while on a visit to Washington on March 14, 1844. His name is still venerated among the older residents of the Clopper and Gaithersburg areas.

In November of 1835 the members of the congregation of Montgomery County welcomed their new pastor, Father Bertrand Sylvester Piot. Father Piot was a native of France who had studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained in 1833 and after teaching for a few years at St. Mary's College, he was entrusted with the care of the Montgomery missions.

Father Piot served as pastor for four years. During this time he was especially interested in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. His collections for this society marked the first time that appeals had ever been made in the County for a religious cause broader than the needs of the particular congregation.

In November 1839, Archbishop Eccleston appointed Father Piot pastor of St. Paul's Church at Ellicott Mills. Pending his replacement, the Montgomery County congregations were entrusted to the care of Father Philip A. Sacchi, S.J., who had come to Georgetown from Southern Maryland. In the Spring of 1840, the Archbishop appointed Father Michael P. Galligher as the fifth pastor of St. Mary's.

Father Galligher had been ordained four years when he arrived at Rockville. He began immediately the regular visitations of the country missions and made a very favorable impression upon the Catholics of the area. There were now four churches in the County: the Carroll

Chapel at Rock Creek, St. Mary's at Barnesville, St. Mary's at Rockville, and the new St. Rose's Church at Clopper. At Hollin's River and in other areas of the County the pastor continued to offer Mass occasionally and to administer the sacraments in the homes of Catholic residents.

In 1840 Father Galligher began a separate series of church records for the congregation of St. Rose's under the title of "The Woodland Congregation." Separate records had been kept at Barnesville since 1815. All other church records of the County were at St. Mary's at Rockville.

In the winter of 1845 Father Galligher submitted a financial report to the Archbishop, the first of its kind on record by a Rockville pastor. During his pastorate of almost five years he had received \$270.25 for his support from the Rockville congregation, \$415 from Rock Creek, \$181.50 from Barnesville and \$420 from Clopper. Thus, he had managed to live on a yearly income of slightly more than \$250.

At this time Father Galligher lived, as had his predecessors, in the room above the church sacristy. Occasionally he stayed in the homes of parishioners.

In the fall of 1846 Father Galligher left Rockville and entered the Novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Frederick. However, he never became a member of the Society and later moved to the Diocese of Boston, where he spent the rest of his life.

Father Galligher was succeeded by the newly ordained Father Thomas Foley, a member of a well-known Baltimore family. Father Foley served in the County for less than a year. During this time he blessed the cemetery at St. Rose's Church and recorded that ten or twelve persons had already been buried there. In the Spring of 1847, he left Rockville to serve at St. Patrick's in Washington. Later, he was transferred to the Baltimore Cathedral where he was afterward appointed Chancellor and later Vice General. In 1870 he was named Coadjutor Bishop of Chicago where he served until his death in 1879.

Father Foley was succeeded as pastor by Father Francis X. King, a newly ordained priest

who was a native of Ireland. During the spring-time, Father King made the rounds of the mission stations and became acquainted with the Catholics of the County. As was customary when the warm weather came, Father King moved to The Woodlands to spend the summer. He left the mansion on July 26, the feast of St. Anne, to attend graduation exercises at Georgetown College. It was to be a memorable affair with both the Archbishop of Baltimore and the President of the United States as honored guests.

While attending an exhibition at the Academy of the Visitation at Georgetown, Father King was suddenly stricken ill and died at the college the next day, July 29, 1847. His Requiem was offered at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown where his eulogy was preached by Archbishop Eccleston. Father King was buried in the old Trinity church yard. His death came as a tragic loss to the Catholics of Montgomery County who had quickly come to revere their young pastor.

During the rest of the summer of 1847, the Catholic congregations were cared for by visiting priests from both Frederick and Georgetown. In the fall of the year, the pastoral duties were assumed by Father Joseph J. Maguire who had been ordained three years before. Like the young pastor before him, Father Maguire was quickly accepted by the members of his congregation. He manifested a special interest in the children by whom he was especially loved. His health was not too strong and the rigors of mission life were destined to bring about his early death. In 1850, he was appointed to St. Mary's, Govans, and later assigned to Hagerstown where he died a few years later.

Following the departure of Father Maguire, the mission churches were attended for a while by Father John Pallhuber, S.J. and by Father James A. Ward, S.J.

At the beginning of the second half of the century, the Catholics of the County received as their ninth pastor Father Bernard J. McManus, a newly ordained priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. During the early part of

his pastorate, the new Carroll Chapel was completed to replace the former chapel which was then in a state of deterioration beyond repair. On September 29, 1850, the new St. John's Church was solemnly dedicated by Archbishop Eccleston.

A year later, Father McManus was assigned to Baltimore and the County congregations welcomed Father Francis E. Boyle, a young priest who was destined to become one of the most famous churchmen of his day. During his two-year administration, Father Boyle made notable improvements and changes at St. Mary's Church. The present steeple in the front was erected. The old steeple at the back of the church surmounting the living quarters of the priest was demolished and a roof was erected over the former sacristy, which was then enlarged on the east rear section of the church. The sanctuary today is located in the portion of the building formerly used as the sacristy.

The first rectory at St. Mary's was built by Father Boyle and consisted of a combined living room and dining room with a kitchen on the first floor, with the pastor's quarters and a room for the housekeeper on the second. The rectory was a decided improvement over the former quarters of the priests and its construction added much to the personal comfort and convenience of the pastor.

During his brief pastorate Father Boyle also made improvements on the property of the other mission stations.

In January of his last year at Rockville Father Boyle made the following interesting notation on Church law in the baptismal register:

January 1, 1853. By command of the Holy See published here by the Most Reverend Archbishop Kenrick, mixed marriages will hereafter require a dispensation and the number of such marriages will be communicated to Rome once every two years through the Archbishop. Francis E. Boyle

In November of 1853, Father Boyle was transferred to St. Peter's Church in Washington. His personal charm and Irish wit had endeared him to the members of his flock and many of them kept in contact with him for years. A large and beautifully framed photo-

graph of Father Boyle hung for almost a hundred years at The Woodlands, an indication of the deep impression he had made on the County in his day.

In the fall of 1853, Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick appointed Father John Joseph Dougherty as the eleventh pastor of the Montgomery County mission. At the age of twenty-four Father Dougherty was the youngest pastor that Rockville had yet received. At the time of Father Dougherty's arrival the roads had improved to the extent that he purchased a buggy, the first transportation vehicle ever used by a priest in the County. Until this time the pastors had made their mission rounds by foot or on horseback and the purchase of the horse and buggy was a definite advancement.

In the fall of 1854, through faculties granted by Archbishop Kenrick, Father Dougherty installed the first Stations of the Cross in St. Mary's Church and formally established this devotion in the County. These original stations hung on both sides of the church. They were colored pictures enclosed in glass with white wooden frames and measured twenty-two by sixteen inches in size. The names of the stations were printed in four languages. The main title was in German followed by those in English, French and Italian. This practice was followed at that period of American church history because of the varied ethnic backgrounds of the Catholics of the day. The official erection of the Stations of the Cross was recorded by Father Dougherty in the baptismal register and witnessed by C. A. Harding and by William Duffy. Later, stations were installed in all the mission churches.

During Father Dougherty's pastorate the first recorded administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation took place on Sunday, September 2, 1855, when Archbishop Kenrick confirmed forty-two girls and boys. The next day the Archbishop confirmed twenty-nine youngsters at St. John's at Rock Creek. The date of the earliest recorded First Communion class is Sunday, August 2, 1857, when the pastor administered the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to ten girls and boys and to two adults.

At that time the practice of preparing girls and boys as a class for the reception of their First Communion and Confirmation was just beginning. Previously these sacraments had been administered to individuals or to small groups of youngsters who had been privately instructed.

Since the first officially recorded visit of Archbishop Kenrick, St. Mary's Church has been honored by the presence of all the Archbishops and most of the Auxiliary Bishops of Baltimore until the division in 1939 into the Baltimore-Washington Archdiocese. It is also known that the County was visited by the predecessors of Archbishop Kenrick, namely, Archbishops Carroll, Neale, Marechal, Whitfield and Eccleston. However, their visits were not recorded officially.

By the end of the 19th century the number of Catholics in the Hollin's River area had grown to the extent that Father Dougherty realized the need of a small chapel in which to conduct services. Until this time Mass had been offered in the homes of Catholic families there and frequently at the Gardiner residence. Some time shortly before the Civil War the Watkins family gave the pastor a small tract of land approximately eight miles northeast of Rockville upon which he constructed a small wooden chapel in 1860. The mission chapel was named in honor of St. Peter.

In the records of St. Mary's Church the location of the first St. Peter's Church is referred to as Hollin's River. Following the Civil War it was known as Hawling's River and later on as Mt. Zion. A local tradition notes that the first St. Peter's was destroyed by fire and that a second church was quickly constructed. There is some evidence of this, including a letter from William Rich Hutton of The Woodlands to his wife Mary Augusta Hutton, in which he mentioned that Father Dougherty was building a church with the help of the soldiers.

Father Dougherty continued to visit the congregation at St. Peter's whenever a fifth Sunday of the month occurred. He followed the schedule arranged by Father Redmond over forty years before and made monthly visitations to



LEFT: Original Station of the Cross.

BELOW: Formal decree of Erection of the Stations of the Cross.

St. John's at Rock Creek, to St. Mary's at Barnesville, and to St. Rose's at Clopper. The remaining Sunday was spent with the congregation at Rockville where he resided.

During his nine-year pastorate Father Dougherty made necessary repairs to all the properties entrusted to his care. In June of 1860 he requested the ladies of the parish to assist him in raising funds for the improvement of the Rockville church. They responded by sponsoring a strawberry festival, a favorite church social activity of the time. This affair, held at the Fair Grounds, is reported in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* of June 16, 1860 in an account that illustrates the journalistic style of the day:

The call upon the public was generously responded to and a very large concourse of people assembled and spent the day in the enjoyment of the good things of life provided with a liberal hand by the accomplished ladies who had charge of the affair. A band of musicians from Georgetown played their sweetest airs during the entire day. A large platform was erected for the occasion and was occupied constantly by a happy and merry group in dancing. In fact, mirth and hilarity reigned supreme and there appeared to be a generous rivalry as to who should have the greatest amount of pleasure and enjoyment. We learn the net amount of the proceeds of the festival is four hundred and twenty-five dollars. We really congratulate the ladies upon their success.

Father Dougherty was pastor of Montgomery County at the outbreak of the Civil War. History does not record the part played by the town of Rockville in relation to the great events of the war, but the conflict between the states affected deeply the lives of Catholics and other residents of Montgomery County.

However, local historians have recorded incidents linking the name of Rockville with

Via Crucis

In C. Dougherty, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rockville, Montgomery Co., Md. to hereby certify, make known, that, conformably to the faculty which the Most Rev. Francis P. Kench, Arch Bishop of Baltimore, has dated 2nd May, in virtue of the concession of Holiness of the 3rd of October 1852, on the day of October the 26th 1854 in presence of the undersigned, solemnly the "Via Crucis" or way of the Cross, in the said church of St. Mary, with the rites and ceremonies that are used. Therefore, and according to the order of the Pontifical Concession, all faithful who will visit the Stations and fulfill the conditions that are imposed, prescribed, may be partakers of the indulgence and privilege which the said Pontiff has granted to such who perform these pious exercises.

In testimony of which, I have signed this on the day of October the 26th 1854.

Witnessing John J. Dougherty

famous figures of the war. On the morning of June 28, 1861, General J. E. B. Stuart passed through town with his troops on his way to Gettysburg to join General Lee. On October 6, 1861, the residents of Rockville observed President Lincoln, Secretary of State Seward and General McClellan driving in a carriage through town on their way to the camp of the 19th New York Regiment, a short distance beyond Rockville. There they held a meeting with General Nathaniel Banks. Another famous name associated with the war is that of General Jubal Early who entered Rockville early on the morning of July 11, 1864 and conferred there with the members of his staff.

During the war the soldiers customarily attended church services in the areas where they happened to be located. Their presence in uniform at Mass was a usual sight at the time. On occasion the pastor of Rockville was invited to visit military encampments to offer Mass for the troops. An account of such a visit made by Father Dougherty to Darnestown is recounted in the *Daily National Intelligencer* for Thursday, September 26, 1861:

A very pleasing incident transpired in the camp of the Pennsylvania 29th yesterday. At the request of Col. Murphy and the protestant chaplain of the regiment, The Rev. Father Dougherty of Montgomery County celebrated Mass in the camp. The whole regiment with uncovered heads, kneeled and received the benediction. Colonel Murphy is a protestant but was happy of the occasion to show that he was no bigot and in matters pertaining to the Constitution and laws that there would be no division of sentiment even in religious matters. (Darnestown, September 23, 1861.)

The two following excerpts from military journals illustrate further the deep faith of soldiers during the Civil War:

At Barnesville, some of the Corps were gladdened by the sound of a church bell, and finding the edifice near, some ventured in and were pleased to hear the priest, for it was a Catholic church, pray for the President and peace. (Alfred S. Roe, *The Tenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1864*, p. 204.)

On the 4th of December 1861 the brigade started for Frederick (from Darnestown). Here, too, were

religious observances. A good Catholic priest came, and had all needed help, — tents, etc., — to minister to the 200 men of his persuasion, while the usual services went on in harmony. (Alonzo H. Quint, *The Record of the Second Massachusetts Infantry, 1861-1865*, pp. 60, 63.)

In July of 1862 Father Dougherty was transferred from Rockville and Father Edmund Didier was appointed as his successor. He remained until the close of the war and devoted himself to the spiritual ministration of the missions during this momentous period of the County's history. Father Didier recorded that on Sunday, December 7, 1862, he distributed the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to thirty-five boys and girls in a First Communion class in the Rockville congregation. Under his supervision seven boys and girls at St. John's, Rock Creek, made their First Communion, June 13, 1865.

During Father Didier's pastorate the Misses Dugan and Walley opened a school for girls in Rockville attended by young ladies of the area including members of St. Mary's Church. The school was known as Misses Dugan and Walley's Seminary for Young Ladies.

In July of 1865 after the end of the war, Father Didier left St. Mary's and was succeeded as pastor by the newly ordained Father Placide Louis Chapelle who, like Father Didier, was of French ancestry.

Father Chapelle enlarged the rectory and taught for a while at the girls' school conducted by the Misses Dugan and Walley. Meanwhile the gradual increase in population following the war prompted him in 1866 to ask the Archbishop of Baltimore for an assistant priest. In 1867 the request was granted and Father Spruyt, a Belgian, was assigned to Montgomery County. Father Chapelle then divided the work of the mission churches. He attended St. Mary's, Rockville, and St. John's, Rock Creek, every other Sunday and visited St. Peter's at Hawling's River whenever a fifth Sunday of the month occurred. Father Spruyt was entrusted with the care of the congregations at Barnesville and at Clopper.

The Catholics of the County welcomed this



LEFT: *Rockville's Civil War Monument.*

ABOVE: *Troops attend Mass during the Civil War (Rockville area).*

arrangement which provided them with more frequent opportunity to receive the sacraments. The members of St. Mary's congregation at Barnesville conducted a drive to repair the priest's house which had been built some years before. Some historical accounts credit Father Spruyt with the actual building of a new rectory.

During this time Father Chapelle was studying at St. Mary's Seminary for his doctorate in Sacred Theology which was awarded to him July 24, 1868. Father Spruyt was then transferred from the County and Father Chapelle was assisted by Father Jeremiah O'Sullivan and Father William Starr, both of whom were destined for distinguished careers in the Church. Father O'Sullivan became Bishop of Mobile and Father Starr became Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In June of 1869, Archbishop Spalding appointed Father Joseph S. Birch as the first resident pastor of St. Mary's Church at Barnesville.

Though Father Spruyt had resided at Barnesville he had served in an official capacity as an assistant to Father Chapelle. The County now had two pastors. Father Birch assumed the care of Barnesville and of Clopper while Father Chapelle remained in charge of St. Mary's, Rockville, St. John's, Rock Creek, and St. Peter's at Mt. Zion, formerly Hawling's River.

In June of 1870 Father Chapelle was transferred to St. Joseph's Church in Baltimore and Archbishop Spalding appointed Father James Mackin as his successor. Father Mackin had previously been stationed at St. Matthew's in Washington.

The young Father Mackin came to Rockville at a time when activity on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was at its peak. Sometimes nearly a hundred boats passed through the locks in a single day. As his predecessors did before him, he journeyed along the towpaths on horseback to visit the families in the cottages along the way. In their homes he offered Mass, administered the Sacraments and taught catechism by the light of the hearth. Some of these families spent their entire lives along the canal and the children learned at an early age to drive the mules

which towed the boats. Some of the boys became deckhands and later steersmen. A few managed to acquire their own boats and as captains lived with their families in the small cabins located at the stern of the boats.

The sight of the pastor on horseback was a familiar one to the workers on the canal. This phase of his priestly life made a deep impression upon Father Mackin and many years later, as pastor of St. Paul's Church in Washington and as the oldest living priest of the Archdiocese, the eighty-five-year-old Monsignor Mackin loved to reminisce about those early years at Rockville.

In 1852 Nicholas Brooke, a wealthy member of the Rockville congregation, had died and left a generous bequest to the church. The will had appointed Lemuel Clements as trustee. With these funds Father Mackin purchased land near the church for the founding of a school for girls under the direction of the Misses Dugan and Walley. In August of 1874 a strawberry festival was held on the Fair Grounds for the benefit of the new school which was formally opened in the fall of the year under the name of St. Mary's Institute. Father Mackin also founded a similar school for girls at St. John's at Rock Creek.

On June 18, 1871 Father Mackin welcomed to the parish the young Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina who came at the request of Archbishop Spalding to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children. He was Bishop James Gibbons who was destined to become one of the most noted figures in the history of the Church in America. A few years later in 1873, the parish was visited for the first time by Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley, the successor of Archbishop Spalding and the nephew of Blessed Elizabeth Seton. Archbishop Bayley, who was also distantly related to the two presidents, confirmed sixty-five girls and boys on September 14 of that year.

Under Father Mackin, St. Mary's Church underwent the most extensive renovations since those of Father Boyle twenty years before. A large Sunday School room which was also used for daily Mass in the winter, was added at the

northwest corner of the church. The sacristy on the other rear corner of the church was enlarged and remodeled. The interior of the church was frescoed and the walls were decorated with various religious symbols. A new altar was built and enriched with candelabra, the gift of Father Jacob Walters, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Washington and a friend of Father Mackin, and the stained glass window above the front entrance of the church was installed.

The front of St. Mary's Church was completely renovated at this time, with pointed turrets rising as grill work along the top of the façade and surmounted by the letter "S" imposed over the letter "M." The most striking additions were the battlements that changed substantially the appearance of the front of the church.

During this program of restoration Father Mackin was assisted by William Rich Hutton, family head of The Woodlands, who as an architect and engineer did much of the planning and design of the early churches in the area. Mr. Hutton was the architect for the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Father Mackin also improved the cemetery grounds adjacent to the church and enclosed them with a small railing. Along the church side of the cemetery he planted a row of pine trees, one of which remains today at the southwest corner of the church. He purchased a lot for himself in St. Mary's Cemetery located, as he later described, where "the morning sun casts the shadow of the steeple's cross over the graves."

During his seven-year pastorate Father Mackin organized the Sanctuary Society, composed of ladies of the parish who devoted themselves to the upkeep of the altar and to the care of the vestments and altar linens. He also established the Society of the Living Rosary, the purpose of which was to promote the recitation of the beads every day by the members of the congregation.

In September of 1875 St. Mary's was visited for a second time by Archbishop Bayley who came to administer the Sacrament of Confirma-



The Rockville Pastor on the towpath of the C & O Canal.

tion. As was customary at the time, the Archbishop spent several days in the County and confirmed in their respective churches the children of St. John's and the boys and girls of St. Rose's.

Father Mackin noted in the baptismal register the places where he conferred the Sacrament of Baptism. Many were local references never officially recorded. Some of these have been completely forgotten while others are still very familiar to residents of the County. The registers at St. Mary's record his visits to Great Falls, Seneca Falls, Seven Locks, Colesville, Gaithersburg, Brightwood, D.C., Darnestown, Goshen, Mitchell's Cross Roads, Sligo, Berry's District, Hawling's River, Laytonsville, Mechanicsville,

Muncaster's Mill and Unity. He recorded Silver Spring for the first time in 1875, Bethesda in 1876, Montrose in 1876, and Wheaton in 1877. He also recorded baptisms conferred at the County Alms House.

Toward the end of his term as pastor Father Mackin took a six-months leave of absence and his congregations were entrusted to Father Casper Schmitt during this time.

In May of 1877 Father Mackin left St. Mary's for St. Martin's Church in Baltimore and was succeeded by Father James A. Cunningham. Father Cunningham had been ordained three years previously and had served at the Baltimore parish of St. John. During his pastorate at St. Mary's he organized the League of Prayer.



LEFT: *Rockville's Main Street in 1900.*

BELOW: *Main Street in 1963.*



In the fall of 1879 he welcomed to the parish the young Archbishop James Gibbons, who two years before had been appointed the ninth Archbishop of the Primatial See. Archbishop Gibbons confirmed thirty-five boys and girls at St. Mary's on Sunday, September 21, and on the following day confirmed eighteen youngsters at St. John's.

At the beginning of 1881 Father Cunningham was followed as pastor by Father Joseph S. Gallen. It was Father Gallen who provided the noted historian, J. Thomas Scharf, with the historical background of St. Mary's for the author's monumental work, *The History of Western Maryland* (1882).

In the spring of 1882, St. Mary's Church narrowly escaped destruction by fire, the fate of so many early churches of the time. One morning in early April during the celebration of daily Mass the church chimney caught fire and the flames quickly spread to an adjoining window frame. The presence of the members of the congregation who acted quickly prevented further damage and saved the church.

Archbishop Gibbons again visited the parish in 1882 and on Sunday, September 17, confirmed thirty-seven girls and boys. The next day he visited St. John's, where he confirmed thirty-two youngsters.

In April of 1883 the Catholics of Mont

gomery County were saddened by the complete destruction of the Church of St. Rose at Clopper by fire. The Catholics of that area worshipped at The Woodlands until the completion of the new church.

Father Sebastian Rabbia followed Father Gallen as pastor in June of 1883 and arrived just in time to attend the laying of the cornerstone for the new Church of St. Rose at Clopper. The sermon on that occasion was preached by Father Chapelle, the former pastor of St. Mary's, who was now pastor of St. Matthew's Church in Washington. The new St. Rose's was completed and services were held there for the first time in November of 1883.

In July of 1883, Father Rabbia renovated the small building at Rock Creek that had been founded as a school by Father Mackin. Since it was no longer used for that purpose the building was furnished to serve as a rectory for the Rockville pastor on his visits to St. John's.

In August of that same year Father Rabbia, assisted by Father Maynadier, conducted the Forty Hours Devotion at St. Mary's Church. This was the first known time the devotion had been conducted in the County. He also arranged for the first recorded parish mission conducted for eight days in June of 1884. The mission was under the direction of the Lazarist (Vincentian) Fathers Donahue and Lefevre and was attended by Catholics from all parts of the County.

When Father Rabbia was transferred to St. Patrick's Church in Baltimore in January of 1885 the *Montgomery Sentinel* praised him for his achievements as well as for his contribution to the spiritual lives of the residents of the County.

At the beginning of the year 1885, Archbishop James Gibbons appointed Father James Michael Connelly as the eighteenth pastor of St. Mary's. In the spring Father Mackin, the former pastor, visited Father Connelly and made a generous financial contribution to St. Mary's. With the aid of these funds Father Connelly undertook an extensive program of repairs and renovations. St. Mary's Church was painted and the large stained glass windows

were installed; two rooms and a hall were added to the rectory; the cemetery grounds were improved, and the fence surrounding them was mended. The pastor decided that the small rectory at St. John's was beyond renovation and built a small cottage there consisting of three rooms to be used by the pastor on his visits to Rock Creek.

With the encouragement of Father Connelly the Misses Dugan and Walley continued their work of teaching young ladies at St. Mary's Institute.

With the future growth of the Church in Montgomery County in mind, Father Connelly purchased seven acres of land on the old Norbeck Pike about a mile from the church for use as a cemetery. This land was bought from Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Maddox and is now referred to as the new St. Mary's Cemetery.

In the latter period of his pastorate Father Connelly was assisted by Father Michael J. Riordan who shortly afterwards became pastor of St. Mary's Church at Barnesville.

For many years the pastors at Rockville had visited the area of Great Falls to minister to the Catholics who lived along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. Father Connelly judged that the number of Catholic residents of that area had grown to the extent of requiring a church. He actually surveyed the area to determine the most suitable site for it.

At that time, however, through arrangements made with Cardinal Gibbons, the responsibility for the mission at Great Falls was transferred to Father John Barry, the pastor of St. Ann's Church, Tennallytown. This arrangement reduced the pressing schedule of the Rockville pastor who already had charge of the missions at Rock Creek, now known as Forest Glen, and at Mt. Zion. Under the direction of Father Barry, St. Gabriel's Church was built at Great Falls and opened for services in 1890.

Father Connelly left Rockville in the fall of 1889 and was followed by Father Charles O. Rosensteel, a priest whose name is still revered in Montgomery County. Early in his pastorate Father Rosensteel had the honor of welcoming to the parish Cardinal Gibbons, who, in 1886,

had been raised by Pope Leo XIII to the rank of a Prince of the Church. The Cardinal came to St. Mary's on September 14, 1890, and confirmed sixty-four boys and girls.

Father Rosensteel undertook the most extensive renovation of St. Mary's Church since the work of Father Mackin twenty years before. The sanctuary was made smaller and the altar rail, which formerly had run the entire width of the church, was reduced to the smaller area in front of the main altar where it is today. Additional pews were then installed at the front of the church to conform to the present arrangement of two sections of pews. The confessional was removed from the sacristy to the rear of the church and the gallery was reduced in size. The entire interior of the church was redecorated. Outside the church a wooden frame vestibule was added to the entrance. A new bell with the date 1898 was installed in the steeple.

Father Rosensteel was intensely interested in the historic mission of St. John's at Forest Glen. There he built an impressive stone church, the largest of its kind in the County at that time. The new St. John's was dedicated by Cardinal Gibbons in 1894. Later Father Rosensteel built a rectory next to the church which replaced the smaller one used until that time. In November of 1898 Cardinal Gibbons appointed Father Rosensteel as the first resident pastor at St. John's. His first official act as pastor at St. John's was the dedication of the new St. Peter's which he had built at Olney while pastor at St. Mary's.

With the appointment of Father Rosensteel to St. John's, Montgomery County had three resident pastors, those at Rockville, Barnesville, and Forest Glen.

Father Joseph A. Cunnane succeeded Father Rosensteel as pastor of St. Mary's, and though he served less than a year, he enlarged the sacristy of the church and installed a small round stained glass window above the main altar. This window was personally designed by the pastor and was donated by Miss Margaret Jones in memory of her brother, Thomas Jones. A new baptismal font, a gift of Father Didier, a former pastor, was also donated at this time.

During the pastorate of Father Cunnane ar-

rangements were made with the pastor of St. Ann's by which the Rockville pastor resumed the schedule of regular visits to Great Falls. A few years later, in 1910, Cardinal Gibbons officially re-assigned the mission of St. Gabriel to the pastor of St. Mary's.

At the turn of the century St. Mary's was under the pastoral care of several priests, all of whom served for short periods of time. Father Sidney Hurlbut followed Father Cunnane and served for less than two months. He was succeeded by Father John Gaynor who resided at St. Mary's from August 1900 to August 1901.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the population of Montgomery County had increased to 30,451, about twice the number of residents when Father Redmond had assumed the pastoral care of the entire County in 1813. The Catholics of the County were now served by three resident pastors and worshipped at six churches. The pastor at St. Mary's, Rockville, attended regularly the missions of St. Peter's at Olney and St. Gabriel's at Great Falls. The pastor of St. Mary's, Barnesville, also ministered to the mission of St. Rose. The Catholic residents of Forest Glen enjoyed the services of their first resident pastor.

By this time the traditional strawberry festival had given way to the lawn party, but the transition was in name only, and the lawn party continued to be the most popular and effective method of raising funds. Like the strawberry festivals of former years, the lawn party also contributed to the social life of the parish.

The close of Father Gaynor's pastorate at St. Mary's was marked by a lawn festival that was hailed as the most successful event of its kind in twenty-five years. We derive a sense of the time from the detailed preparations required, which the pastor usually announced from the altar on the preceding Sunday. For the lawn festival of June 1901, the assignments, usually made it seems on the basis of seniority in service, were published as follows:

Ice Cream table, Misses Mamie Matlack and Lona Poss; Fancy table, Miss Agnes Matlack and Mrs. Lee Offutt; Raffle table, Miss Maggie Fields and



ABOVE: *St. Mary's Church
and Rectory in 1898.*

RIGHT: *St. Mary's Church in 1896.*

Mrs. H. D. Warfield; Dining tables, Mrs. Emma V. Carr and Mrs. Charles Veirs; Candy table, Misses Lena Jones and Rose Wagner; Lemonade table, Misses Ethel Poss and Ella Rabbitt; those in charge of the tables will be assisted by the young ladies of the parish.

The men of the parish also helped at these affairs and among those active at this time were John L. Brunett, George Hunter and Charles Lydanne.

In the fall of 1901 the parishioners of St. Mary's welcomed Father Thomas David Williams, the twenty-third pastor of the church, who had been assigned by Cardinal Gibbons to succeed Father Gaynor.

Father Williams began his pastorate by conducting the Forty Hours Devotion from Sunday, October 13, to Tuesday, October 15. The Sunday services included High Mass in the morning with Vespers, a sermon and Benediction in the evening. The Devotion of the Forty Hours was well attended by Catholics from all





Baptismal Font donated by Sodality in 1961; RIGHT: Font given by Father Didier at turn of century.

parts of the County. Later, Father Williams received permission from Cardinal Gibbons to offer midnight Mass at Christmas and at the first recorded Christmas Midnight Mass to be offered in the County, the church was crowded to capacity.

Father Williams organized the League of the Sacred Heart and also established the Holy Angels Sodality for the children. He improved the church facilities with the installation of a gas plant to provide lighting. This was a welcome improvement over the oil lamps formerly used. In the spring of 1904, Father Williams was transferred as pastor to St. Stephen's Church in Washington and Father Philip B. McGuire was appointed to succeed him.

Until the time of Father McGuire heat for the church in winter had been provided by coal stoves. Two of these were located in the rear of the church and older parishioners still remember members of the congregation gathered about these stoves for warmth while waiting for Mass to begin. Father McGuire removed the stoves and installed a steam heating system with the furnace located under the east side of the

church. (The coal bin was located under the west side and the flagstone path that led to the coal chute is still visible.)

During the pastorate of Father Williams the formation of a cemetery association had been discussed but had never been acted upon. With Father McGuire's approval the first organizational meeting of the Cemetery Association was held at the church on November 4, 1906. At this meeting Mrs. Lee Offutt was elected president. For many years the association provided the pastor with both efficient administration and systematic improvement of the old and new cemeteries. A monument to this organization of the past is the arch it erected over the entrance to the new St. Mary's Cemetery. Father McGuire sold the lot and building formerly used for St. Mary's Institute and purchased seven acres of land adjacent to the new St. Mary's Cemetery.

Father McGuire also organized the Aid Society. This group was made up of ladies of the parish who sponsored fund raising events such as the lawn festivals.

During Father McGuire's pastorate the parish was visited by the Rt. Rev. Dennis J. O'Connell, Rector of the Catholic University of America and the future Bishop of Richmond, who, in October of 1908, confirmed fifty-seven girls and boys and eight adults of the parish.

Father John T. Coolahan followed Father McGuire as pastor in 1912, and remained until 1929, the longest pastorate since that of Father De Vos almost one hundred years before. During his term of pastor there were three episcopal visitations for Confirmations. On June 6, 1915, the Most Reverend Owen B. Corrigan, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, confirmed seventy-three members of the parish, the largest number yet on record. During this visit Father Coolahan furnished Bishop Corrigan with valuable historical material on the founding and early days of St. Mary's at Rockville. A few years later the Bishop included this material in an article that provided the most authoritative historical sketch of the parish that had yet been published.

In March of 1923, two years after the death

of the beloved Cardinal Gibbons, the parish was visited for the first time by Archbishop Michael J. Curley who confirmed a class of forty-eight. In June of 1929, the members of the parish were honored by the first Confirmation visit of the Most Reverend John M. McNamara who had been consecrated Auxiliary Bishop the year before.

During his long pastorate Father Coolahan brought about extensive renovation and repairs to St. Mary's Church. The steam heating plant was replaced with a hot air system. The gas lighting fixtures were also removed and electric lights were installed. (The original lighting fixtures may still be seen in the choir of the church.) The interior of the church was completely redecorated. A new altar with adoring angels on each side, and statues of the Blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph were contributed by various parishioners. A new set of the Stations of the Cross provided by the Aid Society replaced those installed by Father Dougherty in 1854.

Father Coolahan's term of office included the years of the First World War. During this time he readily accepted the invitations to civic observances that marked departure of Rockville men for the Armed Forces.

A memorable achievement during the pas-

Arched entrance to the New St. Mary's Cemetery erected by the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Association in 1912.



torate of Father Coolahan was the building of a new parish rectory in 1917. The old residence had been built by Father Boyle almost seventy-five years before. It had been enlarged several times but now Father Coolahan was advised that it was beyond repair. The new rectory, still in use, was built immediately behind the old one which was demolished when the new house was completed. Several years later Father Coolahan built the present parish hall, now referred to by the youngsters of the parish as the canteen building. These two buildings were a notable addition to the parish plant. The church property also included at this time a barn used for a while as a stable, a woodshed and a chicken coop.

Father Coolahan was the first pastor of St. Mary's to acquire and to use an automobile for parish visitation. He then added the present garage to the rear of the parish hall.

Father Coolahan organized the men of the parish into a group similar to that of the present plan of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men.

In 1929, after the longest pastorate in the history of the parish, Father Coolahan was transferred by Archbishop Curley to Western Maryland, and Father Charles R. O'Hara was appointed to succeed him.

The first of the many contributions made by Father O'Hara to the parish life of St. Mary's was the organization of the Holy Name Society, which replaced the men's organization established by Father Coolahan. At the invitation of the pastor, the Most Reverend John M. McNamara, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, journeyed to Rockville on June 15, 1930 for the ceremony inaugurating the Society. The services were held on the lawns adjoining the church and included the solemn recitation of the Holy Name pledge by the officers and members of the new society. The charter officers included William E. Morrison, president; L. J. Ryan, vice-president; Leland L. Fisher, secretary; J. Hampton Jones, treasurer; and Jacob Poss, marshal.

The following year Father O'Hara began the most extensive program of renovation of



ABOVE: *Interior view of St. Mary's Church in 1940. RIGHT: St. Mary's Rectory (photographed in 1940).*

St. Mary's Church since that of Father Mackin sixty years before. The interior of the church was painted and the gallery was extended to its present length. New pews and new electric light fixtures were also installed. The exterior of the church was painted and the turret grill work surmounting the façade was removed. The wooden vestibule was replaced with one of brick. For the first time shrubbery was planted around the church, and the outside entrance to the furnace room beneath the church was reduced to ground level. The beams beneath the church were reinforced and a steam heating system was installed to replace the hot air system. The entire cost of this program of renovation and repair amounted to \$14,000.

Father O'Hara arranged for special services to mark the completion of the renovation program. On December 2, 1931, a large gathering of clergy and parishioners at St. Mary's heard Bishop McNamara pay eloquent tribute to the pastor and to the congregation for their generous gifts of time, of energy and of money for the improvement of the House of God.

Father O'Hara received public commendation in 1935 for his role in helping the young victims of one of the most tragic accidents in the history of Montgomery County. On the evening of April 11, 1935, students of the Williamsport High School were returning by bus from the University of Maryland where they had attended a chemistry demonstration. As the bus crossed the B & O tracks on Baltimore Road near the railroad station, it was struck by a train. Fourteen girls and boys were killed and many injured. Father O'Hara and another priest, Father Cecil J. McNeil of Catholic University who was visiting him at the time, rushed from the rectory and administered the last rites of the Church to the dying and first aid to the injured. As a result of this accident the crossing on Baltimore Road was permanently closed by order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In June of 1936 Father O'Hara was appointed by Archbishop Curley as pastor of Holy Comforter Church in Washington and Father John J. Coady was named to succeed him.

When Father Coady arrived the Catholic



St. Mary's Hall, built by Father Coolahan.

population of St. Mary's and St. Peter's numbered about 400. This was approximately the number of Catholics in the entire County when Father Redmond had begun his pastoral ministry in 1813.

For the first time in the history of the parish the services of another priest were required for the parish schedule of Sunday Masses. Father Coady arranged for a Redemptorist Father to come each Saturday to help with the hearing of confessions and to assist with the Masses on the following morning.

From October 1 to June 1 there were two Sunday Masses at St. Mary's, at 8:30 and 10:30. Mass was offered at St. Peter's at Olney at 8:30 on the first Sunday of the month, and at 10:30 on the others. The summer schedule from June 1 to October 1 provided three Masses each Sunday at St. Mary's, at 7:00, 8:30 and 10:30, with a weekly Sunday Mass at St. Peter's at 9:00.

During Father Coady's pastorate the Montgomery Council No. 2323 of the Knights of Columbus met regularly at St. Mary's Hall. While pastor at St. Mary's, Father Coady served on the faculty of Mt. St. Mary's College at Emmitsburg, Maryland. During his course of studies he had acquired doctorates in theology as well as in both civil and canon law.

In May of 1938, at the invitation of Father Coady, the parish was honored by the presence of its most distinguished visitor, His Eminence Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, then Apostolic Delegate and the present Papal Secretary of State. The purpose of this visit was the formal blessing of the new church organ. On that occasion the Apostolic Delegate addressed a few remarks to the capacity crowd on the beauty of church music and its place in the liturgy. He also distributed medals and rosaries to the children. Among the parishioners who were presented to him at that time was Mrs. Lee Offutt whose father, Lemuel Clements, had helped to build St. Mary's Church one hundred and twenty-one years before. The Apostolic Delegate visited St. Mary's for a second time in 1941 when he confirmed the seventy-four boys and girls of the parish.

In May of 1941, Father Coady was appointed

PARISH NOTES

A Monthly Record of the Affairs of

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ROCKVILLE, MD.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, OLNEY, MD.

REV. FATHER CHAS. R. O'HARA, Pastor Rockville, Md. and Olney, Md.

AUGUST, 1932



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ROCKVILLE, MD.

Calendar of Events

TELEPHONE No. 69

MASSSES

Sunday 8:30 and 10:30.
Except Fourth Sunday.
Fourth Sunday Mass—at 8:30 only.
Fourth Sunday—Mass at Olney at 10:30 only.

HOLY DAYS

St. Mary's—8:30 and 10:30
None at Olney

CONFESSIONS

4:00 to 6:00 P. M.
7:00 to 8:00 P. M.
Saturday Evenings of Holy Days
and First Fridays.
No evening confessions during
winter months except when announced.

BAPTISMS

Baptism by appointment

First Friday — Holy Communion Sunday for Society, First Sunday of Monthly meeting of Society Monday night Sunday at 7:30 in Hall. Children's Communion—

"THE MONTH OF THE ASSUMPTION"

Church Bulletin published by Father O'Hara.

by Archbishop Curley as pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Washington, and was succeeded by Father Thomas J. McKew.

At the beginning of Father McKew's pastorate, the steady influx of new residents into the County had begun. The official census of 1940 registered 83,912 residents of Montgomery County as compared to the 1930 figure of 49,206. St. Mary's at Rockville, which at one time had cared for the Catholics for the entire County, was now in charge of only one mission, that of St. Peter's, Olney. Father McKew continued the schedule of Masses arranged by Father Coady and during his pastorate the

LOWER LEFT: St. Mary's most distinguished visitor, His Eminence Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, Papal Secretary of State, as Apostolic Delegate visited St. Mary's in 1938 to bless the new church organ and greeted Mrs. Mary Clements Offutt, introduced by Father Coady.

LOWER RIGHT: A familiar ad in the Rockville summer press.

RIGHT: St. Mary's "historian," Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Clements Offutt, baptized at St. Mary's January 28, 1864; died June 1, 1962.



Read Special "ARCHITECTURAL SKULLDUGGERY" on Page 4.

THE MONTGOMERY
INDEPENDENT
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1928

\$7,000 PLUS WASTED ON BETHESDA HIGH SCHOOL

Rocks From Rockville

Many Attend Annual Grand Hospital Fete Held Near State Spring

FAILURE TO VENTILATE U FLOORING CAUSES "WE" ALL BOARDS IN 3

Amazon Equipped - noted Rep

ANNUAL LAWN FETE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Rockville Maryland

Tuesday and Wednesday
August 7th & 8th, 1928

If Rain Will Be Held Also Thursday

FRIED CHICKEN and COUNTRY HAM - SUPPER

VARIOUS AMUSEMENTS

Have 17 v. Motorcycles

USE THE

SUBSCRIPTION TO

MONTGOMERY INDEPENDENT

Rockville, Maryland

For a year or more

For the 1928

Dominican Fathers provided the services formerly rendered by the Redemptorists. The present custom of the sanctus candle, which burns on the credence table during the Canon of the Mass, is a tradition from the days of the Dominican Fathers.

Father McKew remained at Rockville only two years and in June of 1943 Archbishop Curley appointed the twenty-ninth and present pastor, Father Joseph Gilbert Hann. This year Father Hann marks the twentieth anniversary of his pastorate at St. Mary's, the longest in the one hundred and fifty year history of the parish.

Father Hann has enjoyed the pastoral experience of supervising the transition of St. Mary's from a rural to a suburban parish. As already noted, the 1940 official census count recorded 83,912 residents in the County. By 1960 the figures had jumped to 340,928. This increase has been reflected in parish growth from the 716 parishioners of St. Mary's in 1943 to the 5,983 in 1963.

In order to provide for the spiritual needs of the growing number of parishioners, Father Hann was assigned an assistant pastor in 1944, an additional assistant in 1954, and by 1959 the number of assistants had grown to three.

In the early years of his pastorate Father Hann continued the custom of former pastors by offering the daily weekday Mass during the winter months in the parlor of the rectory. The large room was more than ample for the five or six devoted parishioners who attended faithfully. As the daily attendance grew, the church was used the year round. Following the Second World War the coal furnace was removed and oil heat was installed in the church.

The Sunday schedule of Masses was increased gradually to meet the needs of the growing congregation. By 1952 six Sunday Masses were being offered, three in the church and three in St. Mary's Hall.

In 1953 the parish was relieved of providing services at St. Peter's when Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle appointed Father Philip Brown as the first resident pastor at Olney.

With the appointment of a third assistant in 1959, the Mass schedule was increased to eight

on Sunday; and in January of 1963 an additional Mass was added to bring the weekly Sunday Mass total to nine. The regularly scheduled Sung Mass was begun in 1954 and the Dialogue Mass in 1960.

A further indication of the growth of the parish during the last twenty years is reflected in the records of finance. The official notitiae submitted for the year 1942 listed a total yearly income of \$14,360.40. The total income twenty years later for the year 1962 was \$195,651.17.

Through the generous contributions of parishioners Father Hann has supervised a building program to accommodate the growing needs of the parish. In 1951 the main wing of St. Mary's School was built adjacent to Veirs Mill Road. At this time the Most Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle visited the parish for the first time to lay the cornerstone and to bless the new building. In 1954 the present auditorium and rear wing of the school were added and the parking lots laid out.

St. Mary's Auditorium was a vital contribution to the life of the parish in providing more ample room for parishioners to attend Sunday Mass.

The old hall that had been built by Father Coolahan was renovated to serve as a gym for the children as well as a meeting place for organizations. In order to preserve the auditorium as a place of worship, St. Mary's Hall and gym were thoroughly renovated again in the spring of 1962 for use by parish organizations, especially by those of the children.

St. Mary's strawberry festival of a hundred years before had developed into the parish lawn party by the early twentieth century. This social event gave way in turn to the famous ham and chicken dinners in the spring and the turkey dinner in the fall. These affairs were well attended by residents of the County and by visitors beyond its boundaries.

In 1949 the ham and chicken supper became associated with a new venture, the parish fair. The latter event proved so successful that the suppers were discontinued after a few years and attention centered on the promotion of the annual parish fair. Through the cooperation of



1941 aerial view of St. Mary's.

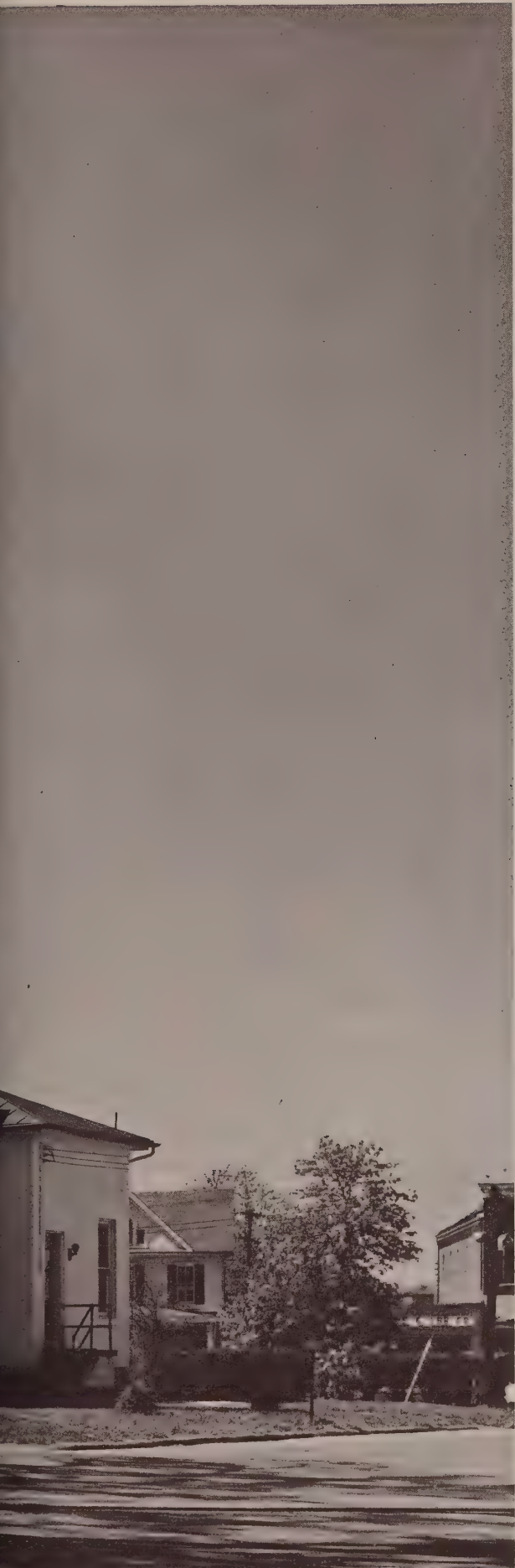
the parishioners the fair developed into the most popular event of the year and the most effective method of raising funds.

In 1960, however, on the recommendation of the newly formed Men's Club, the fair was discontinued in favor of the present "Three Per Cent Plan." Under this system all money making affairs were discontinued and in their place contributions of three per cent of the parish family's yearly income were requested. Two main advantages of this plan were the removal of an increasing necessity for parish fund raising

events and the providing of more time to the priests for the spiritual needs of the parish.

In August 1956, the parishioners of St. Mary's were gladdened by the consecration of the Most Reverend Philip M. Hannan as Auxiliary Bishop of Washington. Bishop Hannan had been a former parishioner of St. Mary's when, as a boy, he spent his summers with his brothers and sister at the summer home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Hannan, at Norbeck. As a youngster Bishop Hannan with his brothers served Mass at St. Mary's for Father Coolahan





*Serene and strong amid her trees
And the timeworn markers of her flocks long past
The Church of the Pioneer Priest still stands
On Rockville's Crest and in a newer age
Tends faith abundant in a fertile land
Where rugged men of a frontier time
Set firm the rocks of her heritage*

and for Father O'Hara. On May 11, 1959, the parishioners of St. Mary's welcomed Bishop Hannan for the first time as Bishop when he came to confirm two hundred and ninety-three children of the parish.

On November 19, 1961, Archbishop O'Boyle visited St. Mary's and confirmed three hundred and forty-nine girls and boys, the largest Confirmation class in the history of the parish. The ceremonies took place in the auditorium where the youngsters occupied the majority of the six hundred seats. At that time the Archbishop observed that the time was coming when St. Mary's would need a new and larger church to accommodate the growing number of parishioners.

On Sunday, May 19, 1963, both Archbishop O'Boyle and Bishop Hannan are scheduled to visit the parish to attend the Sesquicentennial Mass to be offered by the pastor, Father Hann. The scheduled speaker for this occasion is the Right Reverend John K. Cartwright, D.D., Rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral. That same afternoon Bishop Hannan will confirm the children of the parish. During the week appropriate observances will be conducted for the children of St. Mary's. On the following Sunday, May 26, a general parish reception will be held in further observance of the Sesquicentennial. Efforts have been made to contact those former parishioners who, in the past, have contributed so generously of their time and effort on behalf of St. Mary's Church.

The life of the Church, Our Lord's parable tells us, is growth and fruition. We may claim an honest pride in the evidences we see of these rewards of zeal during the last century and a half of the Church's apostolate in Montgomery



Official boundaries of St. Mary's Parish, 1963

County. We pray that our own labors in the same vineyard of the faith may, a century and a half from now, excite some of the respect and reverence that we feel today for the accomplishments of the priests and parishioners who have gone before.



*A young parishioner honors
the Parish Patroness.*



Original Carroll Chapel at Rock Creek (Robert J. Jones).

Saint John The Evangelist's, Rock Creek

(Forest Glen) Mission of Saint Mary's 1813-1898

FEW parishes are so rich in historical background and religious heritage as is St. John the Evangelist's of Silver Spring. It is because of St. John's that Maryland's Montgomery County could well be called the nerve center from which Catholicism pulsed up and down and across the United States.

It was from the County's Rock Creek Chapel that its pastor, Reverend John Carroll, was called to become the first Bishop of the United States in 1789.

Father Carroll's little church, at what is now Forest Glen, was the focal point during the American Revolution of a mission territory em

2

Former Missions of Saint Mary's

bracing Frederick, Howard and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, and Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties in Virginia together with the area now known as the District of Columbia.

After his studies for the priesthood in Europe, Father Carroll returned to Maryland in 1774 to live for several years with his mother, Eleanor Darnall Carroll, at her estate at Rock Creek. There he ministered to the Catholics of the area as well as to members of his family. A small room attached to his mother's house was used for divine worship. All the larger homes or mansions belonging to Catholics of that day had rooms set aside for the offering of Mass since the laws forbade Catholic churches to be erected.

But the chapel room proved inadequate. Moreover, with several states adopting measures guaranteeing religious freedom for all, Father Carroll, with the counsel of his mother, built a small chapel on her estate about a half mile from the family home.

The exact date of the construction is not recorded; however, land records of Montgomery County (Liber B, Folio 248) record the transfer of one acre to Reverend John Carroll on August 11, 1784 for the building of a church. In a letter to Archbishop Ambrose Marechal, dated December 8, 1817, Reverend James Redmond, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rockville, notes that the Rock Creek Chapel is now "thirty years or less old." *The Montgomery County Sentinel* of August 18, 1883 carries an account



Third St. John's, built by Father Rosensteel and dedicated in 1894.

of a festival and tournament held at St. John's in observance of its one hundredth anniversary.

Father Redmond, in the above letter, details the dimensions of the chapel as being thirty-eight feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. It was a frame building, weather-boarded and whitewashed. The entrance opened into the chapel underneath a small gallery from which one could look down on the pews on the epistle side of the altar which the Carroll family had reserved for its own use; and on the other pews, filling up the small church, which were for the use of the congregation.

Members of the Carroll family were buried in the little cemetery near the church. The graves remain today and a replica of the chapel has been erected on the original foundation as a memorial to Archbishop Carroll.

In 1784, at the request of a representative group of the American clergy, Father Carroll was appointed Prefect Apostolic of the United States by the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda with the approval of Pope Pius VI. The appointment invested him with the power to make clerical appointments and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. With regret, he felt it was necessary to leave his Rock Creek parish for a more metropolitan location. He

therefore moved to Baltimore in 1786, where he was named Bishop in 1789.

After Father Carroll's departure, the little chapel received occasional visits from Jesuit priests stationed at Georgetown College, Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown and in Southern Maryland.

When Father Redmond, in 1813, assumed the pastoral care of all the Catholics in Montgomery County, with headquarters at St. Mary's Church in the County seat, Rockville, he visited the Carroll Chapel at least once a month.

During 1814 and 1815, Father Redmond directed extensive repairs to the chapel at a cost of \$650. Funds for this project were contributed by Catholics of the area. But by 1850 the little chapel had so deteriorated that a new and larger building was needed. Under the supervision of Father Bernard J. McManus, the ninth pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, the second chapel was completed in the vicinity of the first. The new church was dedicated on September 29, 1850, by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston of Baltimore.

With the appointment, in 1869, of the first resident pastor of St. Mary's, Barnesville, the pastor of the Rockville church was relieved of the duty of visiting Barnesville and the Woodland (Clopper) missions; it was then possible for him to visit the Rock Creek Chapel every other week.

A priest whose name will ever be associated with St. John's, Forest Glen, is Father Charles O. Rosensteel. As pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, and in charge of the Rock Creek mission, he was intensely interested in the little parish that had been so intimately connected with Archbishop Carroll.

Through his efforts, the third church was built near the site of the original chapel. Because of the many graves surrounding the old church, Father Rosensteel decided the new church should be built on another corner of the property. James Cardinal Gibbons laid the cornerstone on May 11, 1893. In the spring of the following year, on April 29, 1894, the new church was solemnly dedicated by Cardinal Gibbons. When the Cardinal decided St. John's



Second St. John's Church, built in 1850 (Robert J. Jones).



Interior of second St. John's Church.

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should have a resident pastor, his choice was Father Rosensteel. The appointment was made on November 2, 1889.

In 1899, Father Rosensteel completed the parish rectory. By 1900, more and more Catholics were moving into the area. Because of his foresight, additional property was bought within the parish boundaries for future churches.

In 1936, when Father Rosensteel was in his eighties, he needed help with the multiplicity of parish duties. Father (now Monsignor) Joseph T. Kennedy, then assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Washington, D.C., was assigned to the Forest Glen parish as co-pastor.

After the Second World War plans were completed for the education of the children of the parish. St. John the Evangelist's School, under the direction of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart, was opened in the fall of 1950.

The beginning of the new chapter in the

history of St. John's began in 1962 when the fourth new church, the new rectory and convent were dedicated by Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle on May 27, 1962.

The convent was erected first. The old convent building, the McKeever residence on Georgia Avenue, after being classified as a fire hazard, was burned down as a practice fire-fighting drill by the Silver Spring Fire Department. One of the local radio stations, unaware of the real purpose of the fire, went on the air with special news bulletins giving graphic descriptions of the fire and the valiant efforts of the firemen to save the burning building!

Monsignor Kennedy, appointed Dean of Montgomery County in 1948, was invested as a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII, on January 29, 1956. There are three assistant pastors at St. John's: Reverend Thomas A. Kane, Reverend Aloysius T. Newman and Reverend Raymond J. Boland.



St. Mary's Church, Barnesville, Md., destroyed by fire in 1900 (Robert J. Jones).

Saint Mary's, Barnesville

Mission of Saint Mary's 1815-1869

ST. MARY'S, Barnesville, was considered the largest congregation in Montgomery County when Father James Redmond assumed the pastoral care of all the Catholics in Montgomery County.

From his headquarters at St. Mary's, Rockville, he visited on horseback four other parishes: Rock Creek, Barnesville, Seneca (now Clopper) and a mission station near Hollin's (Hawling's) River.

Even before the Barnesville church was com-

pleted in 1808, the parishioners attended Mass at a chapel on the Elder estate, near Emmitsburg. Mass was offered by priests from Georgetown College and from Frederick, Maryland.

Among the priests who administered to the needs of the Catholics in the area were Father John McElroy, S.J., and Father Robert Plunkett, S.J.

Father McElroy dreamed of a church in the Barnesville area and raised funds for the church among the Irish laborers on the Chesapeake 8

Ohio Canal and the families resident in the area: the Bealls, the O'Neils, the Jamisons, the Jones and others. But it was Father John DuBois, who was pastor of St. John's Church at Frederick at the time, who brought the plans to reality. Father DuBois later founded and became first president of Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, and still later was named Bishop of New York.

With the approval of Archbishop Carroll, Father DuBois met with the families in the area to determine the most favorable site for the Catholic church. Three possible locations were suggested: the site of the former church (a probable reference to the chapel on the Elder estate), the Medley property in the area and Barnesville. No votes were cast for the old site; only two for Medley and the rest for Barnesville.

Two acres of land in Barnesville were donated for the church site by Zachariah Knott; the timber was provided by Bernard O'Neil; other parishioners provided the necessary labor such as hauling timber from the mill to the church site and providing firewood to make the bricks used in construction. The building project began in 1807 and was completed in 1808.

The church was a wooden structure, fifty feet long and twenty-eight feet wide, containing forty pews. The sacristy and rectory were built at a later date. The total cost of the church was \$400, of which Father Plunkett had raised \$150; the rest was collected by Father DuBois.

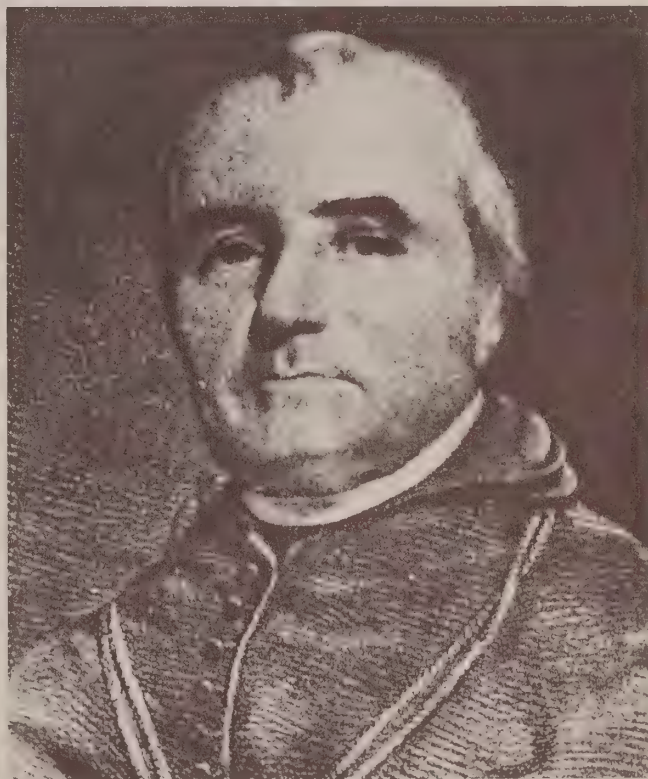
Father DuBois advised Archbishop Carroll that the new church at Barnesville would be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and, in order to unite the two churches, the Emmitsburg church would be dedicated to St. Joseph so that the congregations might be incorporated into one under the name of Mary and Joseph.

After a short time Father DuBois found his work at Mount St. Mary's so demanding that regular visits to Barnesville were impossible. Visiting priests came but their calls were irregular. Father DuBois urged the Archbishop to appoint a resident pastor. This was not possible at the time but the Archbishop assured Father DuBois that a priest would visit Barnes-

ville as many times as he could possibly do so.

The founding of St. Mary's at Barnesville is officially dated as 1815. This was the year when Father Redmond decided the growth of the congregation warranted separate official church registers. Until that time the church entries of Barnesville had been recorded at Rockville.

The priests from Rockville visited the Barnesville congregation regularly until after the Civil War. Among them were several who later were named to the American hierarchy: Father Placide Louis Chapelle, later Archbishop of Santa Fe and afterward of New Orleans; Father Thomas Foley, later Coadjutor Bishop of Chicago; and Father Jeremiah O'Sullivan, later Bishop of Mobile, Alabama.



Bishop John DuBois

In 1867 a young Belgian priest, Father Spruyt, came to Rockville to assist Father Chapelle and took over the church at Barnesville and the mission at Clopper. Some accounts credit him with the building of a new rectory at Barnesville.

Subscription

Subscribers Names	Amount Sub.	Subscribers Name	Amount Sub.
Wm. Reid paid	\$30.00	William James, Haynes	
Levi K. Cooley paid	30.00	and Thomas Reid were	
Haynes Reid paid	25.00	brothers, sons of James	
Thomas Reid paid	30.00	B. Reid, Jr., and his wife	
John Schofield paid	10.00	Mary Rachel Jones.	
Robert M. Grant paid	50.00		
Levi K. Cooley paid	5.00	Levi K. Cooley,	
Frederick Knott	5.00		
John M. Knott	10.00		
Promiss	5.00		
W. J. Jones paid	5.00	← Mrs. Teresa Jones.	
G. H. T. Lomax paid	5.00		
Cash paid	1.00		
John T. Carlin paid	10.00	← John T. Carlin.	
J. B. paid	3.00		

Under the direction of the pastor, the parishioners began to work on a new church at once. The construction firm of William T.

The Fatima shrine has what is believed to be the first memorial erected in the United States to the memory of the Second Vatican Council. A large ancient Greek lamp with illuminated metal flames and a bronze tablet



The Woodlands today.

Saint Rose's, Clopper

*Mission of Saint Mary's
1835-1869*

inscribed "A Beacon Toward Christian Reunion" was unveiled in October of 1962, shortly after the first session of the Council opened.

Priests presently serving the Archdiocese who once were pastors at St. Mary's, Barnesville, include the Right Reverend Carl Hess, the Right Reverend Philip Brown and the Reverend Francis Driscoll.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is a discrepancy in historical records as to the exact date of the building of the first St. Mary's at Barnesville. Scharf assigns it to 1808, a date that is supported by the letters of Father DuBois to Archbishop Carroll in the archives of Mount St. Mary's College. On the other hand, Archbishop Marechal in his diary for the year 1818 notes that the church at Barnesville had been built by Father Redmond who began his Montgomery County apostolate in 1813. Perhaps the solution lies in the tradition preserved in the area that not one but two churches preceded the present St. Mary's. However, the matter remains obscure and warrants the attention of those who in future years may pursue the history of the church in Barnesville.

THE Catholics who live in the Clopper area of Montgomery County in the opening years of the nineteenth century worshipped at a small brick chapel on the Waring estate, where according to tradition Father Carroll had offered Mass; but the history of St. Rose's parish really begins with a young Protestant named Francis Cassatt Clopper and The Woodlands.

Clopper was related to the family that later produced Mary Cassatt (1845-1926) who was one of America's better known painters; and Alexander Cassatt, president of the Pennsyl-

vania Railroad Company from 1899 to 1906. On a visit to the section of Western Maryland where some of his ancestors had migrated earlier, giving their name to the locality, he was charmed by its beauty and he determined that some day he would return and build his home there.

Thus it came about that when he married a Catholic girl, Ann Jane Byrne of Philadelphia, he bought a five-hundred acre plantation near the Waring estate and overlooking the Seneca River. There in 1812 he built The Woodlands, a mansion of 24 large high-ceilinged rooms on a site among and overshadowed by giant oak trees. Part of the house is believed to have been standing since about 1800 on the site when Clopper purchased it; this part is of log and frame construction and was later stuccoed. The newer part, joined to the old by a passageway, is of brick and stucco. The mansion as seen now has fourteen fireplaces, five of which on the first floor have carved marble mantels. Leading off the front porch is a wide center hall. Off the hall to the left is the parlor, behind it the writing room off which, beneath the center hall stairs, is the chapel room. From the parlor one enters a passageway leading to the large dining room and its table with twenty-four chairs. The kitchen has exposed beams and a huge fireplace with a crane and an oven alongside. The second floor has several bedrooms, a study, morning room, nursery and schoolroom.

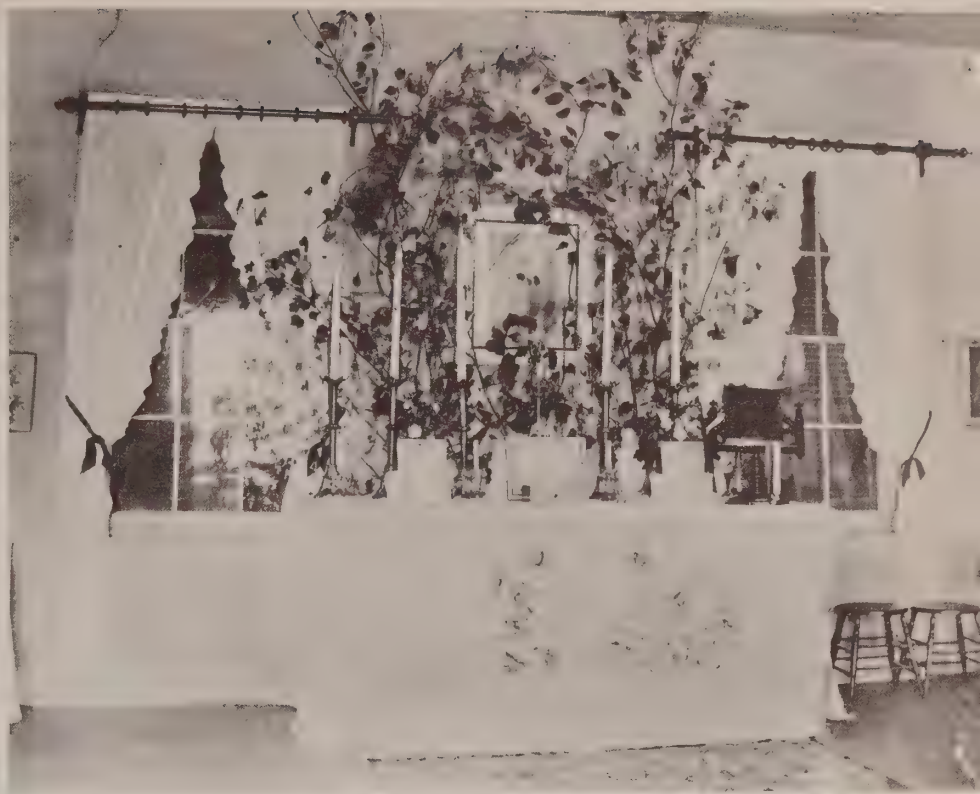
However, the most important room in the mansion was to the right of the center hall, the west room, a ballroom where Masses were offered for the family and the neighbors. It is probable that more Masses were celebrated in The Woodlands in those days than in any other place in the County.

Mr. Clopper was not a Catholic, but his estate became the center of Catholic life for the families of the area. The visiting priests made it their headquarters while in the area, as did the Archbishop of Baltimore on his visitations in the County.

Father Peter De Vos, a Belgian, was one of the first priests assigned to The Woodlands mission. He had been serving in the missions of

Southern Maryland. The Archbishop of Baltimore in 1819 made him pastor of the Catholics of Montgomery County, with headquarters at St. Mary's, Rockville. He was full of zeal but not suited to the rigors of missionary work in the United States in the early nineteenth century. Exceedingly nervous, he was disturbed at the slightest noise. The rustle of a taffeta skirt during a sermon (which he delivered after Communion walking up and down the aisle) brought a rebuke. Once during a sermon on drunkenness he told Mrs. Clopper, who was making her thanksgiving after Communion, that the sermon was meant for her as well as for the others; and he refused to baptize the Clopper's first child because he had found novels in their parlors. The couple brought the child to Baltimore to ask the Archbishop's advice, and he himself baptized the child. Eventually Father De Vos became so nervous that he changed the site of the Masses from the large west room of the mansion to the little chapel beneath the stairs, and issued a request that only those who received a written invitation from him should attend the Masses. His health continued to grow worse and in 1835 the Bishop relieved him of his duties. Father De Vos had fallen under the spell of the wooded countryside and he moved in with Mr. & Mrs. Peddicord, a pious couple with no children, who felt they were honored and blessed to be asked to care for a priest.

Mary Augusta Clopper, the daughter of Francis and Ann Clopper, married William Rich Hutton in 1855. He had served as an army paymaster in California during the Gold Rush, and after his marriage he had a very successful career in engineering. He served as assistant engineer on the Washington aqueduct and the Cabin John Bridge; chief engineer of the Annapolis waterworks and chief engineer on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal; consulting engineer of the Croton Aqueduct and designer and chief engineer of the Washington Bridge over the Harlem River. He received the diploma of honor at the Paris Exposition of 1878 for the design of locks on the Kanawha Canal, and was a member of engineering societies in England,



TOP LEFT: Monument of the Foundress of St. Rose, Clopper.
 ABOVE: Altar of the West Room of The Woodlands where Cardinal Gibbons and others offered Mass.

LOWER RIGHT: Back porch of The Woodlands from snapshot found in the mansion.



France and the United States. He died in 1901.

His wife, Mary Augusta, lived to be 89, and in her 85th year she wrote a history of The Woodlands and St. Rose's Church. The Huttons had one son, Frank, and three daughters; Mary and Rose lived to be over 90, and Elizabeth married William Sinclair Caulfield, who died in 1948. Their son, John Paul, spent his life at The Woodlands. He married Helen Schmidt of New Jersey in 1936. Their daughter Helen, the present mistress of The Woodlands, was born there. She is married to James Madine, and they have two daughters, the great-great-granddaughters of Francis and Ann Clopper.

Francis Clopper in 1834, to please his wife and her sister Mrs. Ellen Maria Maher, donated a portion of the far corner of The Woodlands estate for the site of a church. Mrs. Maher is credited with the erection of the church, but she graciously accepted donations from anyone who desired to contribute to the project.

Planned to be the most beautiful church in Western Maryland, it was built of brick manufactured on the Clopper estate. The brick porch led into a foyer which opened on the main body of the church. There were five windows on each side and two windows in front above the porch. A balcony in the rear of the church overlooked thirteen rows of pews on each side. The first two rows on the epistle side were reserved for the Clopper family. The Catholic families of the area attended services here as they had at The Woodlands.

The non-Catholic Mr. Clopper was given the honor of choosing the name for the church. He selected St. Rose, he said, in honor of Mother Rose, then the Mother Superior of the Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg. Mother Rose, the former Rose Landry White, had served as Blessed Elizabeth Seton's assistant and succeeded her as superior following her death in 1821. She served a six-year term ending in 1827 and again was chosen superior of the community for the term 1833 to 1839. From that time on until her death in 1841 she was assigned to St. John's Asylum in Frederick, Maryland.

The new church was the center of a com-

munity of prominent Catholics of the area, all living within a radius of a few miles. Among these families were the Henrys, Bibbs, Scotts, Whartons, Diamonds, Taney, Fitzgeralds and others. St. Rose's Church was dedicated in the summer of 1836 by Archbishop Eccleston.

The sacred vessels and candlesticks, all made of the finest gold and silver, and the most beautiful vestments obtainable were donated by Mrs. Maher, her cousin Elizabeth ("Cousin Betsy") Byrne and Mrs. Augusta Taney. The care of the altar was undertaken by "Cousin Betsy" who deemed it an honor to launder and keep the altar linens in order.

Mrs. Maher furnished the altar wine until her death in 1858. Until 1886 the altar bread was made at The Woodlands. The host baker and the white board on which the wafers were cut are still family heirlooms.

St. Rose's had an exceptional choir in its early days. All the choir members, including the Warings and the Taney, had trained voices. Mrs. Bibb was the organist.

The priests came from Rockville once a month on horseback, horse and buggy or on foot. Benediction always followed the Sunday Mass. The priests would remain overnight and offer another Mass on the Monday following "Church Sunday." This, they said, enabled them to become better acquainted with their parishioners. In the summertime the priests would leave their quarters above the sacristy at St. Mary's, Rockville, and move to The Woodlands and make their rounds across the County from there.

The Archbishop was as well known in the area as his priests. When he came to administer the sacrament of Confirmation, he, too, stayed at The Woodlands. The heads of all Catholic families in the area were invited to dine with him on Confirmation Sunday at the long table in The Woodlands dining room.

St. Rose's feast day, August 30, was always celebrated in grand style in the little church. Clergymen came from great distances to attend. There exists a letter from Bishop George A. Carrell, of Covington, Kentucky, expressing his regrets at missing the feast day.

The parish cemetery was blessed by Father Thomas Foley on March 25, 1847. At the time he noted there were already ten or twelve graves there.

The lovely little Church of St. Rose stood for forty-seven years, until April 22, 1883, when it was destroyed by fire. Services had been concluded at noon that day and the church locked. A passerby in a horse and buggy at 6 p.m. saw an unusual light in the church. He discovered the church was on fire and spread the alarm, but when the doors were broken open, the draft fanned the flames.

As so often happened in country church fires, no water was available and soon only the



Grave of Confederate soldier who died during Civil War at The Woodlands. St. Rose's Cemetery.

charred walls remained. Fortunately the sacred vessels and vestments were saved.

At first the fire was thought to be incendiary in origin. Later it was blamed on a mouse who supposedly upset a box of matches which ignited a quantity of cottonseed oil. The \$4,000 loss was not covered by insurance.

Following the fire, services again were con-

ducted at The Woodlands in the west room until the present St. Rose's Church was erected in 1884.

The new church retained most of the charm of the original. The bricks that form the walk up to the church door were in the walls in the original church that burned, and are only two inches thick instead of the usual three inches.

The cornerstone of the present church gives the dates 1884 for the present church and 1838 for the original. It is believed the stone mason was given a piece of paper with the two dates of 1835 and 1884 but misread the 1835 and carved 1838 instead.

The church is entered through two large sliding doors which lead to the vestibule which has a door to the choir loft and another to the church proper. Over the door, in honor of St. Rose, is a rose window with six outer circles and an inner circle in vividly colored stained glass. The side windows also are of richly colored stained glass and in the afternoon reflect the setting sun.

The side altars are enriched with old fashioned gold candlesticks decorated with ivy leaves made of gold leaf. Inside the altar rail is a statue of St. Rose, added in recent years to replace a larger statue of the saint which represented the Victorian period in art.

Legend has it that Archbishop Gibbons had just completed administering Confirmation at St. Rose's Church in 1886 when word came that Pope Leo XIII had appointed him a member of the College of Cardinals.

Mrs. Clopper was on her deathbed in April, 1865, the time of President Lincoln's assassination. She desired that Father John Dougherty, a former pastor, then serving in Baltimore, be called to her bedside. Travel, especially for southern sympathizers, was nearly impossible, but a neighbor, Ambrose Clements, went to Baltimore for the priest, after Mr. Hutton obtained a pass for him from General Sherman, whom he had known years before in California. Father Dougherty arrived, offered Mass and administered the last rites to Mrs. Clopper. She died immediately thereafter.

Six months after her death, her husband, the



*Original Church of St. Rose,
built in 1835 (Robert J. Jones).*



*Cornerstone
Church of St. Rose,*



St. Rose's Church today, built in 1884.



Original plans for St. Rose's Church by William Rich Hutton.

bridegroom who had built The Woodlands and eventually became known in the neighborhood as "old Mr. Clopper," was received into the Church by the same Father Dougherty.

Mute testimony to the tragedy of the Civil War is the grave of a stranger in the church graveyard which the Daughters of the Confederacy decorate each year. The southern soldier was standing in a group of his own company which was making sorties in the area. A passing Union scout shot into the group and this soldier, critically wounded, found his way to the mansion.

In great excitement, the cook came running to her mistress shouting, "There's a man out here who wants to die in your house!" The wounded man was laid on a couch in the west room. There he was baptized, at his request, by William Rich Hutton. Two physicians were

summoned but the soldier died a few hours later, never revealing his name. As soon as it was dark, the men of the family and the servants carried the soldier's body to the cemetery and there dug a grave close to the entrance of the church. Only the occasional gleam from a lantern guided them in their task. The Cloppers were known as southern sympathizers and Union troops had warned all families in the vicinity against giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Later it was learned that the soldier was William D. Scott, Co. D, 14th Virginia Cavalry.

The present pastor of the mission church is Father Paul E. Meyer of St. Martin's Church, Gaithersburg. He is assisted by Father Vincent A. Beratta.

The Woodlands and St. Rose's Church stand as a memorial to a Catholic family whose life was centered in their religious duties and in their love for the Church.

LOWER LEFT: *Present owner of The Woodlands, Helen Caulfield Madine, with children and Father Paul Meyer, Pastor of the Mission of St. Rose.*



Saint Peter's, Hawling's River

(Mt. Zion) Mission of Saint Mary's 1860-1898



St. Peter's Church built at Mt. Zion in 1860 (Robert J. Jones).



*The original St. Peter's Church
at Mt. Zion today.*

FROM the beginning of St. Mary's, in 1813, a regular stop on the mission rounds was the station near Hawling's River, about eight miles north of Rockville. This was the smallest congregation of the five entrusted to the care of the pastors at Rockville. Its very smallness was probably the reason why it was visited only when there was a fifth Sunday in the month. The other four Sundays were devoted to the congregations at Rockville, Rock Creek, Barnesville and Seneca.

As was customary at the time, Mass was celebrated in the homes of the Catholic parishioners, most frequently in that of the Gardiner family. The priest arrived the night before and stayed with one of the Catholic families.

Shortly before the Civil War, Father John J. Dougherty, who was the eleventh pastor of St. Mary's (1853-1862), accepted the gift of the Watkins family of a tract of land, in the Hawling's River district, about midway between Olney and Latonsville. With the help of devoted parishioners he built there a small chapel and placed it under the patronage of St. Peter.

The building was a wooden frame clapboard structure covered with a roof of shingles. It was thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. The ceiling rose from fourteen feet at the sides to a

height of twenty-five feet at the peak, which was surmounted in the front by a cross. There were four windows on each side, and two smaller windows in the front above the entrance. The chapel seated about twenty-five persons. A well outside the church provided water.

Situated amid the mighty oaks of the area, with a background of rolling fields and pasture lands, the small chapel presented a picturesque sight and was referred to good-naturedly, even by the pastor, as "Father Dougherty's Cathedral." Although dedicated by Father Dougherty to St. Peter, for some reason it was never referred to by this name, but rather, as the mission at Hawling's River, and later, Mt. Zion. It was customary at the time to refer to the different congregations by locale, rather than by the name of the church, since in some cases no church existed at the place of worship.

When Mass was said at St. Peter's on the fifth Sunday, the priest left Rockville in the late Saturday afternoon and reached the home of one of the Catholic parishioners in time for supper. One house visited frequently and remembered for its warm hospitality to the Rockville pastors was that of Captain Thomas Griffith, formerly of the Confederate Cavalry.

Confessions were heard before Mass. Follow-



Albert "Mr. St. Peter's" Murphy in front of the Murphy Home at Olney, scene of Catholic worship before the building of St. Peter's in 1898.

ing Mass breakfast was served to the priest; and among those still remembered who devoted themselves to the care of the clergy are Mrs. Mary Ann Thomas and Mrs. Emaline Harris.

Father Dougherty had purchased the first buggy used at St. Mary's, and the use of this vehicle added to the comfort of the priests who formerly had made the mission rounds on horseback. The new buggy was also the object of admiration on the part of the residents of the locale.

The area of Hawling's River was rather sparsely populated until after the Civil War, when there was a gradual inflow into the area of new residents who were for the most part Negro. In the development of community life that followed, a church was formed and desig-

nated officially as the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. Gradually the little village became associated by name with the church so that today, this same little village is known as the town of Mt. Zion.

In 1898, when the new St. Peter's was built at Olney, the mission at Mt. Zion was discontinued and the building and property were sold to the Independent Benevolent Society of Mt. Zion. However, to the credit of the builders, the small wooden structure still stands today, over a hundred years old, long ago converted to a private home.

Among the Catholic families who worshipped at St. Peter's at Mt. Zion were the Gardiners, the Federlines, the Hendersons, the Metz family, the Murphys and the Yearleys.

Saint Peter's, Olney

Mission of Saint Mary's

1898-1953

THE church bell of St. Peter's, down through the years, has called the parishioners to services from three different locations. Beginning in 1860, Catholics of the Olney area attended services at St. Peter's in the area of

Hawling's River, Maryland, two and a half miles west of Olney.

By the close of the nineteenth century, there were more Catholics in the Olney area than in Mount Zion, and, since the Mount Zion church

Early photograph of St. Peter's, Olney.



was too small for the members of the congregation, Father Charles Rosensteel, pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, decided to build a new church in Olney. In 1897 he purchased a small tract of land from Mrs. Elizabeth Farquhar, on the present route 97, just off the Olney crossroads, and there built St. Peter's. That site is no longer church property having been exchanged in the 1950's for other land about one-fifth of a mile away.

Edward Thompson of Redland, with the help of local tradesmen, built the first church at Olney. The building was of wood construction with a shingle roof. The main altar was separated from the body of the church by a wooden altar rail. A smaller altar was built on the epistle side of the church below a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The church had two sacristies: one for the priest off the gospel side of the altar, and one for the altar boys off the epistle side. The latter had an outside entrance. A choir loft in the rear of the church looked down on ten rows of pews that seated about one hundred. There were ten stained glass windows, four on each side of the church and two in the choir loft above the church entrance.

A hitching rail was placed near the church for the tethering of horses during services.

The new St. Peter's was dedicated on November 9, 1898, with Father Rosensteel presiding at the laying of the cornerstone. The sermon was delivered by Father Joseph A. Cunnane, successor of Father Rosensteel, who had been named by Cardinal Gibbons to be the first resident pastor of St. John's, Forest Glen.

Most of the priests from Rockville, in that era, traveled to Olney by horse and buggy. Father Rosensteel, however, usually made the trip by bicycle. Father Coolahan was the first pastor at Rockville to use an automobile.

The pastor came to Olney on the Saturday evening preceding the Sunday designated for services and stayed at the Michael Murphy home. The home, still standing today, had been used for services in the area before the church was built. There are still Catholics in the Olney and Rockville area who were baptized in the Murphy home. It was there that the priests

who attended the dedication ceremony were entertained following the services.

Mr. Albert Michael Murphy, the son of Michael Murphy, is affectionately known today as "Mr. St. Peter's," because of his role as official historian of the parish. He recalls being present when the church was dedicated in 1898. At that time as a lad of seven he watched his father gather mementos to place in the cornerstone. Impressed by the solemnity of the occasion, he donated his prized possession, an oversized 1847 copper penny. When the old church was razed in 1962, the demolition was under the supervision of the same Albert Murphy who recovered the penny he had donated years before. It is being saved for the day the fourth St. Peter's Church will be erected and will again be sealed in the cornerstone.

St. Peter's remained a mission of St. Mary's, Rockville, until 1953 when Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle appointed Father, later Monsignor, Philip J. Brown as resident pastor. The second resident pastor was Father Lawrence A. McGlone. During Father McGlone's pastorate, the new parish school and auditorium-chapel were completed, and were dedicated by Archbishop O'Boyle on October 20, 1957. Following the death of Father McGlone in 1961, Monsignor William J. Awalt was appointed pastor. He was succeeded by Reverend James E. Malloy in 1962. Father Malloy is assisted by Reverend Carl Dianda who has served at St. Peter's since his ordination in 1959.

Choir of St. John's, Forest Glen, at dedication of St. Peter's, Olney, 1898





Early photograph of St. Gabriel's Church, Great Falls.

Saint Gabriel's, Great Falls

*Mission of Saint Mary's
1910-1926*

IN the early 1800's, the mission territory of the priests at St. Mary's, Rockville, extended to the Potomac River's Virginia shores and included the area of Great Falls. The Catholics there were for the most part farmers, canal workers and miners at the Great Falls gold mine.

Father John M. Barry, who was pastor of St. Ann's Church, Tennallytown (now Washington) toward the close of the nineteenth century, was keenly interested in mission work and often volunteered to visit the Catholics at Great Falls, riding the long distance in his buggy to offer Mass in the homes of the families there.



St. Gabriel's Cemetery today, restored by Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Potomac, under the direction of the Pastor, Father Raymond P. Cahill.

Cardinal Gibbons, knowing the missionary interests of Father Barry, transferred the Catholics in the Great Falls area from the care of Rockville's Father James M. Connelly to that of the St. Ann's pastor. Father Connelly was then able to devote more time to the other missions of Rockville, namely, those at Forest Glen and Mt. Zion.

Father Barry, in 1889, asked the Cardinal's permission to build a church; and after securing permission he undertook a survey among his parishioners in order to find a site most agreeable to them. Six votes were cast to erect the church at Potomac, the present site of Our Lady of Mercy parish, ten voted for Great Falls itself, and thirty votes were cast for a site midway between the two. This site, Father Barry noted in a letter to the Cardinal, was the spot that had been selected for the church by Father Connelly. Furthermore, he continued, there were five Catholic families "within sight of this spot" and that the chances "for conversions of non-Catholics in the area are very favorable."

An acre of ground at the site was donated by William S. Harrison, a Methodist, and a deed executed in March, 1890, transferred the land to the Archdiocese of Baltimore for the sum of \$5. Known as "Cool Spring Level," the site

from a hilltop overlooked the surrounding countryside.

Construction began immediately with the work being done by one skilled carpenter and a group of parish volunteers. The main floor seated about two hundred. Schoolrooms and sleeping quarters were located in the basement. The building was of frame construction, narrow, with tall stained glass windows on each side.

Father Barry offered the first Mass in the new church on Christmas Day, 1890. In June of 1891, a school was opened with Mrs. Catherine Seager appointed the teacher for the first class, a large one of fifty children. The schoolrooms were the center of community life as well as parish life and were used by Catholics and non-Catholics alike for civic affairs.

The accuracy of Father Barry's prediction of many converts is proved by the baptismal records of the 1890's. But from the start, the mission church and school were doomed to failure. The community was too closely linked with the fortunes of the C & O Canal which were then on the downgrade because of the influx of the railroad. The water table dropped ruining the farmers' crops. The gold mine played out. There was no work in the area. The school closed in 1896.

Father Barry, discouraged by the hard times in Tennallytown and at Great Falls, asked for a transfer from the two parishes. After he left, the mission was returned to the Rockville parish.

More and more families abandoned the area; attendance at services diminished. When the canal closed in 1926, the church closed its doors. The altar, the pews and the Stations of the Cross were given to Little Flower Mission Church in nearby Cabin John.

The little church burned on Good Friday night in 1933. All that remains today is the little cemetery nearby and the foundation stones of what was once St. Gabriel's Church.

The little cemetery fell into disrepair until the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy parish, in whose boundaries it now lies, recently undertook to landscape the grounds and enclose it with a fence and iron gates.

3

Clergy of the Past

TWENTY-EIGHT priests served as pastors at St. Mary's from the establishment of the parish in 1813 until the appointment of the present pastor one hundred and thirty years later.

The identities of all the former assistants are impossible to determine because the roles of some in the history of the Church in Montgomery County have been lost in the shadows of the early nineteenth century. In later years source material was more carefully preserved, and brief accounts of the lives of twelve previous curates officially assigned to St. Mary's and her missions for any significant period of time are set forth later in this chapter, together with those of the former pastors under whom they served.

The death of St. Mary's fourth pastor has been cited as marking the end of the old and the beginning of the new priesthood in America.

A review of the lives of all the previous pastors reflects the link of the Old Church in other lands to the New Church here. It was not until thirty-three years after the establishment of the parish that the first native born priest was appointed as the sixth pastor at Rockville. Only three of the first ten were native Americans. Of the eleven foreign born priests previously in charge of St. Mary's seven came from Ireland, two from France and one each from Belgium and Italy. Of those born in the United States, eleven were Marylanders with nine of these from the city of Baltimore alone, two were from the city of Washington and the four others from Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Three of St. Mary's previous clergy subsequently became bishops. The sixth pastor was the first to be elevated to the episcopate as

Coadjutor Bishop of Chicago and is the only one of the clergy of the past to have a brother share such distinction as Bishop of Detroit.

Seven were later to become Monsignori and the ninth pastor of Rockville was the first priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate.

The longest and shortest terms were the seventeen-year period of the twenty-fifth pastor and the one-month pastorate of the twenty-second.

St. Mary's fourteenth pastor was the first Catholic priest to open a session of the U.S. House of Representatives with prayer, and her tenth was the last chaplain of the U.S. Senate to open a session of that body in its old Chamber.

One early curate, and the twenty-first pastor were converts.

Reliable accounts of the lives of St. Mary's early priests show that the challenge of the mission churches of Montgomery County was met by rugged men who persevered in their dedication to their sacred, but lonely work.

While a dedication to their sacred calling was a characteristic common to all St. Mary's priests of the past, their individual personalities were as widely varied as their backgrounds.

The founding pastor was the first of three who experienced difficulty in determining whether their true calling within the priesthood was with the diocesan clergy or the Society of Jesus.

The third pastor was a most devout but difficult man who had been a Jesuit before finding "that his settled habits of solitary independence rendered him unfit for community life,"¹ and whose temperament caused his bishop formally to enjoin him "to moderate the natural impetuosity of your temper and remember that meekness and suavity of language and manners are powerful means to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls."² At the same time the bishop noted that the zeal of this priest

had endeared him to his flock; and the saintly death of this pastor has been carefully documented.

St. Mary's fourth pastor was a priest with a valid reputation of sanctity who would never permit his photograph to be taken and whose austerity precluded attendance at parish picnics, yet he is recorded as having been an honor guest at a State Dinner at the White House during the administration of President Millard Fillmore.

The ninth of St. Mary's former pastors was known as a trusted confidant of fellow priests and is reported to have been responsible in part for the appointment of James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore.

The eleventh pastor of St. Mary's was the only one who served there also as an assistant. He was the first of Rockville's Civil War priests and the first to use a horse and buggy on his pastoral rounds.

A man of independent wealth served as St. Mary's twelfth pastor and throughout his life generously contributed furnishings for the interior of churches throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Washington.

The thirteenth pastor at Rockville, later the Archbishop of New Orleans, was an intense scholar devoted to hours of solitary study and who, while at St. Mary's, prepared for and was awarded his Doctorate in Sacred Theology by St. Mary's Seminary. His wide reputation as a man of learning failed to impress the hardy folk of rural Montgomery County who petitioned their Bishop for replacement of a pastor who "was invisible during the week and incomprehensible on Sundays."³

Washington's Mackin High School is named for the founding pastor of St. Paul's parish there who had previously served at Rockville as the fourteenth pastor of St. Mary's.

The eighteenth pastor was a reserved man inclined toward the meditative life and when St. Mary's rectory was enlarged during his pastorate he stipulated that no windows be in-

¹ Edwin Warfield Beitzell, *The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland*, p. 121.

² Ltr., Archbishop Ambrose Marechal to Rev. Peter J. De Vos, Rockville, Oct. 6, 1820 (Georgetown University Archives).

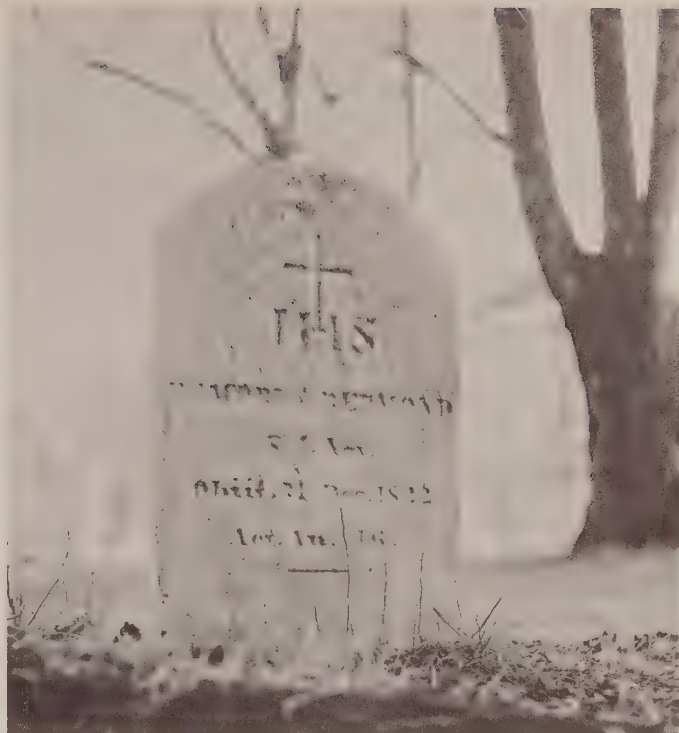
³ Rt. Rev. Monsignor Edward P. McAdams, *Our Glorious Heritage* (private library of Monsignor McAdams).

stalled on the side where a street led to the railroad station.

The lifetime of the twentieth pastor spanned the reigns of six Popes—Pius IX, Leo XIII, Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI and Pius XII.

Of all St. Mary's previous pastors only her twenty-seventh is now alive. The seventh was the only one to die while serving at Rockville and was the youngest at the time of his death.

None of the clergy of the past is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery although the fourteenth pastor had purchased a lot there. The largest groups are those resting in Baltimore's Cathedral Cemeteries and Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Washington. It is in the latter that St. Mary's tenth pastor, who has been termed the outstanding priest in Washington during the Civil War, now reposes with the Confederate Prison Commander, Henry Wirz, whom he attended during the latter's trial and execution. Also buried at Mt. Olivet are Mrs. Mary Surratt and the priests who ministered to her during her trial and hanging, as well as other prominent figures of that tragic era.



Headstone of Father Redmond, first pastor of St. Mary's, St. John's Cemetery, Frederick, Maryland.

I.

Father James Redmond, S.J.

THE first pastor of St. Mary's was Father James Redmond, S.J., who was appointed by Archbishop John Carroll in the summer of 1813 and served until January of 1818.

This was the young priest's first assignment after ordination and while stationed at Rockville, Father Redmond was also responsible for the congregations at Barnesville, Rock Creek, Seneca, and Hollin's River. During his pastorate funds were raised in 1816 for the acquisition of land and construction of the church which was completed in December of 1817 and is still in use.

Father Redmond was born in Ireland on November 2, 1776 and after coming to America as a youth, was received into the Society of Jesus at Georgetown College on October 10, 1807. After completion of training which included a teaching assignment in New York City from 1809 to 1812, he was ordained to the



Archbishop Leonard Neale

priesthood in the College Chapel at Georgetown by Bishop Leonard Neale on March 21, 1813. Assigned to Rockville and the several neighboring congregations in Montgomery County, Father Redmond soon developed a strong attraction to the challenge of the work of the mission churches and successfully sought permission of his Jesuit superiors to withdraw from the Society in order to insure continuation of his ministry in this field. Following his four and a half year pastorate at St. Mary's, the pioneer priest left Rockville in January of 1818 and was given the responsibility for the care of the congregations of the Virginia churches in Martinsburg and Richmond. In the summer of 1818 he was assigned as pastor at Hagerstown, Maryland, where he served for four years.

Because the rigors of rural mission work had in time adversely affected his health, Father Redmond was relieved of pastoral responsibilities in October of 1822 and was then readmitted into the Society of Jesus. His health failed to improve and he died at the Jesuit Novitiate in Frederick, Maryland, on December 21, 1822 at the age of forty-six and in the tenth year of his priesthood.

In Frederick, a simple headstone marks Father Redmond's grave in St. John's churchyard. In Rockville, the church undertaken and completed under his direction still stands as a memorial to St. Mary's first pastor and his work.

2.

Father Michael F. X. Carroll

FATHER MICHAEL FRANCIS XAVIER CARROLL became the second pastor at Rockville on January 1, 1818 and served at St. Mary's until November 3, 1819.

Born, educated and ordained to the priesthood in Ireland, Father Carroll came to the United States from Dublin in August of 1815, and after a short stay in upper New York State applied for assignment within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was first appointed by Archbishop Ambrose Marechal as pastor of St.

Francis Xavier Church at Newtown, Maryland, on February 28, 1816 where he remained until transferred to Rockville in 1818.

Upon leaving St. Mary's in 1819 Father Carroll returned to Newtown but on May 9, 1820 transferred to New York where he was named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Albany with responsibility for the mission congregations at Troy, Lansingburgh, Schenectady, and Johnstown. Following his pastorate there, Father Carroll reportedly returned to his native Ireland in 1822.

3.

Father Peter John De Vos

THE third pastor at Rockville was Father Peter John De Vos who served from October of 1819 until the fall of 1835.

Father De Vos' sixteen-year pastorate was the longest of all the priests assigned to St. Mary's parish from the time of its establishment in 1813 until the appointment of the twenty-fifth pastor in 1912.

Born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1782 and ordained to the priesthood there, Father De Vos came to the United States in December of 1817 and was received into the Society of Jesus at Georgetown. He served as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown, Maryland, until October of 1819 when, unable fully to adapt to community life, he left the Jesuits and was assigned as pastor at Rockville by Archbishop Leonard Neale of Baltimore. In late 1835 Father De Vos was forced by illness to retire as pastor but remained in Rockville and continued a limited ministry among the Catholics there until his final illness nine years later.

Father De Vos left Rockville in January of 1844 and resided at St. Peter's Rectory in Washington until his death there on March 14 of that year. Two priests who attended him during his last illness have testified that this pioneer pastor of St. Mary's died in the odor of sanctity.

Father Bertrand S. Piot

THE fourth pastor of St. Mary's was Father Bertrand Sylvester Piot who was assigned to Rockville in the fall of 1835 and remained through November of 1839.

Father Piot, "perhaps . . . the best remembered of all the pioneer priests of Maryland,"¹ was born in Lyons, France, in 1808 and in 1827 entered the Sulpician Seminary at Issy where he remained for three years. He then came to the United States with the Reverend August Verot, S.S., who later became Bishop of Savannah and, still later, of St. Augustine. Father Piot was accepted at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore on October 14, 1830 to complete his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained there by Archbishop James Whitfield in 1833 and then joined the faculty of St. Mary's College. He next served as pastor at Rockville from late 1835 until named second pastor of St. Paul's Church in Ellicott City on November 30, 1839. Father Piot left St. Paul's on November 18, 1851 and became a member of the faculty of St. Charles College. After serving briefly as the third pastor of St. Mary's in Govans, Maryland, from the fall of 1854 to the spring of 1855 he retired from the active ministry and until his death resided at St. Charles College, toward the construction of which he had earlier contributed his entire savings.

While in nominal retirement at the College Father Piot taught occasionally and, at the request of Archbishop Martin J. Spalding, undertook the organization of the Association of the Holy Childhood within the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1885, and the direction of the Propagation of the Faith in 1886. Father Piot also founded the Association of Prayers for Deceased Priests.

Of the early priests of Montgomery County, the life of Father Piot is one of the best docu-

¹ Rev. Thomas Stanton, *The Church in Western Maryland*, Vol. I, pp. 260 et seq., cited by Brother Fabrician of Jesus, *St. Paul's Church and Parish, Ellicott City, Md.*, p. 51.

mented and all accounts cite the high degree of sanctity achieved by this mission pastor. Father Piot, whose religious life began and ended with the Sulpicians,² died at St. Charles College on May 22, 1882 at the age of seventy-four and in the forty-ninth year of his priesthood. The funeral was held from the College Chapel with burial in St. Paul's Cemetery in Ellicott City.

The death of Rockville's fourth pastor has been noted as marking "the parting between the old and the young priesthood of America."³

Father Philip A. Sacchi, S.J.

FROM April of 1839 Father Piot had been assisted by Father Philip A. Sacchi, S.J. and upon the departure of Rockville's fourth pastor at the end of that year, the Jesuit priest was responsible for the care of St. Mary's parish and the missions of Montgomery County until the appointment of the fifth pastor in May of 1840.

Born in Italy on April 4, 1791 Father Sacchi entered the Society of Jesus there on August 8, 1807 and came to the United States in the early 1820's. Assignments in America included service in Southern Maryland, where he was stationed at St. Ignatius Church at St. Thomas Manor from 1824 to 1835, and where he cared for the mission congregations of Newport and Cob's Neck. In addition to his ministry at Rockville, Father Sacchi was stationed for one year as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown and was also assigned for a time to the College there. He was then transferred to Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he died on April 16, 1850.

² Whether Father Piot ever became a Sulpician remains a minor mystery. He is not listed as such either in a List of Faculty and Students of St. Charles for the period 1853-1882 or in a bulletin listing alumni of St. Sulpice up to 1879. Brother Fabrician notes that the priest himself stated that he was not a member of the Order. Monsignor McAdams reports that Father Piot joined the Sulpician Fathers in 1843. Brother Fabrician quotes Sulpician Father Viger as having seen an account of the reception of Father Piot into the Society of St. Sulpice in a *Book of Deliberations* of St. Mary's Seminary and notes that the same Sulpician added "SS" to Father Piot's name in the List of Professors of St. Mary's College published in 1891. In his *Souvenir History—Centenary of St. Paul's Church, Ellicott City, 1838-1938*, Rev. Thomas J. Stanton refers to Father Piot on p. 41 as a Sulpician.

³ Stanton, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

5.

Father Michael P. Galligher

FATHER MICHAEL PATRICK GALLIGHER became the fifth pastor of St. Mary's in May of 1840 and served until September of 1846.

This pastorate was marked by the initiation of separate records covering the St. Rose congregation at The Woodlands. The formal financial report forwarded to the Chancery in 1845 was the first such document submitted in the history of St. Mary's parish.

Born at Omagh in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1803, he was brought to the United States by his father when a year old. The two settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where the future priest received his early education. After attending Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Father Galligher was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston in 1836. The young priest was first assigned to Hagerstown, Maryland, where he offered his first Mass. In 1838 he returned to St. Mary's Seminary where he remained as a member of the faculty until early 1840 when he was again assigned to Hagerstown with the responsibility



for that parish and the Catholic congregation at Hancock.

In May of 1840 Father Galligher undertook his pastorate at Rockville which continued until late 1846 when he entered the Society of Jesus. After spending eighteen months at the Jesuit Novitiate in Frederick, he was sent to St. Mary's Church in Boston as assistant pastor. Father Galligher then left the Jesuits and in 1849 was appointed by Bishop Fitzpatrick as the pastor of St. Vincent's Church in Boston. In the fall of 1856 he was named pastor of St. Michael's Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he remained until his death in 1869. The new St. Michael's Church erected by Father Galligher and consecrated by the Bishop of Boston in 1867 was later to become a Cathedral with the creation of the Diocese of Springfield.

Father Galligher died at his Springfield rectory on June 1, 1869 after a year's illness. A Pontifical Mass of Requiem was celebrated in St. Michael's Church by Bishop Williams on June 4, 1869 and the founder of that Cathedral parish was buried in the church yard there.



6.

Bishop Thomas P. Foley

As a newly ordained priest Bishop Thomas P. Foley was appointed the sixth pastor of St. Mary's and served from September of 1846 to May of 1847.

Bishop Foley was born in Baltimore on March 6, 1823 and received his early education there. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary where he was appointed a prefect and where his familiarity with Church ritual resulted in his being assigned, while still a seminarian, as Master of Ceremonies at the Fifth Provincial Council of Baltimore in 1843. He was ordained by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston on August 16, 1846 and assigned to St. Mary's with responsibility for all the missions of Montgomery County.

Following his Rockville pastorate he served as assistant at St. Patrick's Church in Washington until transferred to the Cathedral in Balti-

more where he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese in October of 1848. He served as secretary for the First and Second Plenary Councils of 1852 and 1860 and was named Vicar General in 1867. After more than twenty years service at the Cathedral he was consecrated there as Coadjutor Bishop of Chicago by Bishop McCloskey of Louisville on September 27, 1870.

Bishop Thomas Foley, whose younger brother John was destined to become Bishop of Detroit within ten years, died in Chicago on February 19, 1879. Following funeral services there he was buried on February 24 from the Baltimore Cathedral. Archbishop James Gibbons, a lifelong friend of the Foley family, offered the eulogy at the Mass of Requiem and St. Mary's sixth pastor was laid to rest in the family plot in New Cathedral Cemetery.

7.

Father Francis X. King

THE seventh pastor of St. Mary's was Father Francis X. King who came to Rockville as a newly ordained priest and served from May to July 1847.

Father King was born in County Louth, Ireland, in 1821 and after coming to America was accepted at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore as a candidate for the priesthood. While there he served as a prefect at St. Mary's College which was then attached to the Seminary. Father King was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston in Baltimore on April 11, 1847 and assigned as pastor of St. Mary's but with responsibility for ministering to all the Catholic congregations of Montgomery County.

In the summer of 1847, while at Georgetown for graduation exercises of the College and an exhibition being held at the adjacent Academy of the Visitation, Father King was suddenly stricken with a respiratory ailment and died at the College Faculty residence on July 29, after a few days illness. He was buried from Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown where the eulogy was given by the Archbishop who had ordained the twenty-six-year-old priest only a few months earlier. The body was interred in nearby Trinity Church yard; but when this property was later needed by the College for its Maguire Building the remains were removed to the Holy Rood Cemetery in Georgetown, where the precise location of the grave within the old section has been obscured with time.

8.

Father Joseph J. Maguire

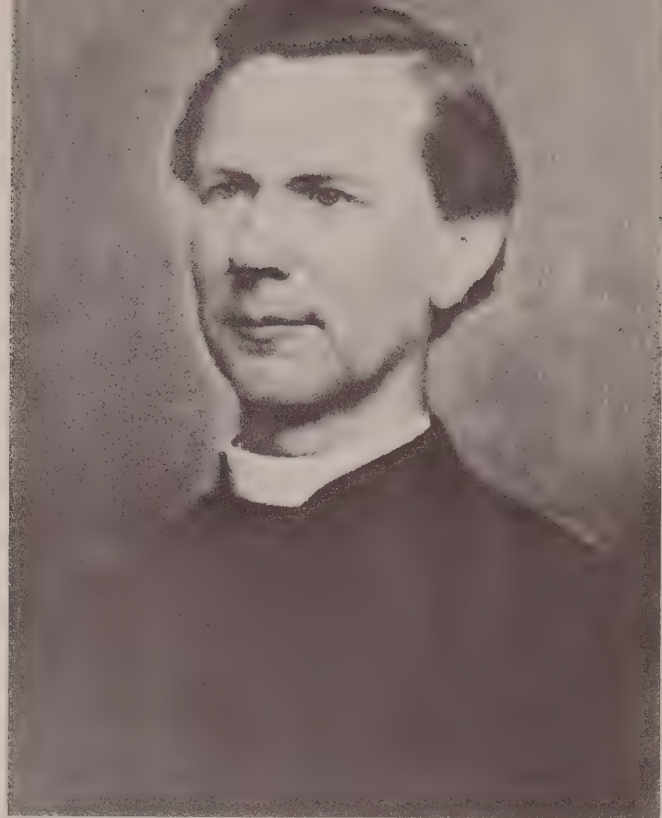
FATHER JOSEPH JOHN MAGUIRE was the eighth pastor of St. Mary's and served from October of 1847 to February of 1850.

Father Maguire was born in Baltimore in 1817 and after graduation, with honors, from St. Mary's College entered St. Mary's Seminary. While studying for the priesthood he served as a professor of Latin at the College. In 1844 Father Maguire was ordained in the Baltimore Cathedral by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston following which he continued teaching for three years. His first pastoral assignment was to St. Mary's at Rockville in 1847. For the next three years he attended the congregation here as well as those at Rock Creek, Barnesville, Seneca, and Hollin's River. Father Maguire was next named the first pastor of St. Mary's at Govanstown and served there until the spring of 1851 when he was transferred to St. Mary's in Hagerstown as assistant pastor. This last assignment involved ministering to the outlying missions of Hancock, Williamsport, Fifteen Mile Creek, and Clear Springs.

The rigors of rural mission area work had gradually impaired the health of the young priest and he died at Hagerstown on September 18, 1852, at the age of thirty-five, after an acute illness of eleven days. Following a Requiem Mass on September 20, 1852, Father Maguire was buried in the church yard. A monument in front of St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown marks the grave of the eighth pastor of St. Mary's in Rockville.

9.

Monsignor B. J. McManus



As a newly ordained priest Monsignor Bernard J. McManus was assigned to Rockville as pastor of St. Mary's from September of 1850 to November 17, 1851.

During this period the second church building was completed at Forest Glen replacing the original Carroll Chapel. At the dedication ceremony on September 29, 1850 the sermon was given by the Reverend Thomas P. Foley who had served as the sixth pastor of St. Mary's and was later to become Bishop of Chicago.

The first priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to be elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate, Monsignor McManus was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, on August 28, 1819. After coming to the United States as an orphan in 1835 he attended school briefly in Adams County, Pennsylvania and then entered St. Mary's College in Baltimore. He was then accepted at St. Mary's Seminary where he completed his studies for the priesthood and served as a member of the faculty of the College then operated in conjunction with the Seminary. He was ordained in the Baltimore Cathedral by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston, Sept. 1, 1850.

The young priest's first assignment was as pastor of St. Mary's and its mission churches of Montgomery County. On November 18, 1851 he was named pastor of St. Paul's parish in Ellicott City where he succeeded Father Piot who had preceded Monsignor McManus at Rockville as the fourth pastor of St. Mary's. From Ellicott City the Monsignor was transferred as assistant pastor to St. Peter's Church in Washington in late 1852 or early 1853. In November of the latter year he became the founding pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish in Baltimore where he built the church and served until his death almost thirty-five years later.

A close friend of James Cardinal Gibbons and credited with a role in the advancement of the younger man, Monsignor McManus was named a Domestic Prelate in June of 1887.

On February 28, 1888 the Monsignor died of a bronchial infection at St. John's rectory at the age of sixty-eight and in the thirty-eighth year of his priesthood. The ninth pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Baltimore.



10.

Father Francis E. Boyle

THE tenth pastor of St. Mary's was Father Francis Edward Boyle who was assigned to Rockville immediately after ordination and served from November of 1851 to November of 1853.

During Father Boyle's pastorate the first substantial alteration of the church building was made with the addition of the present steeple. The first rectory, a small frame structure, was also built near the church on the east side. Previously, a small area above the sacristy had served as the priests' living quarters.

Father Boyle who had been termed the outstanding priest in Washington during the War

between the States, was born in Baltimore on September 6, 1827, and after graduating in 1846 from the College then operated in conjunction with St. Mary's Seminary, entered the latter and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore on November 25, 1851 by Coadjutor Bishop Francis P. Kenrick of Philadelphia. After two years service at Rockville Father Boyle was assigned to St. Peter's Church in Washington as assistant pastor in November of 1853. One year later he was transferred to St. Patrick's Church in that city and served as assistant pastor there for five years. In 1859 he was returned to St. Peter's as assistant at the request of the pastor, Father Edward A. Knight, who as a professor at St. Mary's Seminary had known Father Boyle as a student there. Upon his former teacher's death in 1862, Father Boyle succeeded him as pastor. During Father Boyle's pastorate here, St. Peter's School was constructed in 1867 and the parish branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in 1864. In 1878 he was appointed by Archbishop James Gibbons as pastor of St. Matthew's Church, then located at 15th and H Streets in northwest Washington. Father Boyle served here until his death in 1882.

In 1865 while pastor at St. Peter's, Father Boyle ministered to Henry Wirz, the Confederate army captain in charge of the prison camp at Anderson, Georgia, throughout his Washington trial and at the time of his execution.

Father Boyle achieved early recognition as a scholar and a national reputation as an orator. As chaplain of the United States Senate, he was the last Catholic priest to open a session of the body in the old chamber.

While serving as pastor at St. Matthew's Father Boyle died unexpectedly at Providence Hospital on March 13, 1882 of a stroke which followed apparently successful surgery. Requiem Masses were held at St. Peter's and at St. Mary's, Rockville, and on the following day at St. Matthew's where Archbishop Gibbons offered the Mass and delivered the eulogy. Father Boyle was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery where a large monument marks the grave of St. Mary's tenth pastor.

Monsignor J. J. Dougherty

MONSIGNOR JOHN JOSEPH DOUGHERTY came to Rockville as a newly ordained priest in the fall of 1853 to serve as assistant to Father Francis E. Boyle. Upon Father Boyle's transfer to St. Peter's Church in Washington in November of 1853, he became the eleventh pastor of St. Mary's and served in that position until July of 1862.

The first to serve at Rockville during the War between the States, he nevertheless constructed a mission church at Hawling's River (Mt. Zion) near the present town of Olney. During Monsignor Dougherty's pastorate the first Stations of the Cross were installed in the church at Rockville.

The first priest in Montgomery County to use a horse and buggy on his rounds, the Monsignor was born in New York but his family moved to the Washington area while he was still a child. He was graduated from St. Mary's College in Baltimore and entered St. Mary's Seminary there. On September 24, 1853 he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Francis P. Kenrick at the Seminary and assigned as assistant at St. Mary's. He was named pastor within two months and remained at Rockville until transferred as assistant to the pastor of St. Vincent's Church in Baltimore in July of 1862. He then served as pastor at St. Joseph's Church in that city until appointed by Archbishop Martin J. Spalding as Chancellor of the Archdiocese in 1867. In this assignment he succeeded the Right Reverend Thomas P. Foley who then became Vicar General of the Archdiocese and later, Bishop of Chicago, and who had preceded Monsignor Dougherty at Rockville as the sixth pastor of St. Mary's. In 1872 Monsignor Dougherty was named Administrator of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and later appointed Vicar General and Rector of the Cathedral by Archbishop James R. Bayley. Be-



cause of poor health he requested release from his responsibilities at the Cathedral in 1873 and at his own request was assigned as pastor of St. Paul's Church in Ellicott City. There he succeeded Father William E. Starr who had served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Rockville in 1869 and 1870, before transferring to Ellicott City. Monsignor Dougherty, who has been cited as probably the most loved pastor of the Archdiocese of Washington and Baltimore, celebrated his silver jubilee of ordination at St. Paul's on September 24, 1878. The sermon on that occasion was given by Father Francis E. Boyle, the tenth pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, under whom the Monsignor had first served as an assistant.

In October of 1883 he was forced to leave the active ministry because of cancer and entered St. Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore where he died on April 14, 1885. He was buried from the Cathedral there on April 17, 1885 after a Solemn High Mass of Requiem at which the sermon was given by Archbishop James Gibbons.

12.

Father Edmund Didier

ST. MARY's twelfth pastor and the second to serve during the Civil War was Father Edmund Didier, who was assigned here from August of 1862 to July of 1865.

During this period a school was established at Rockville to be operated by two lay women.

Father Didier was born in Baltimore on December 20, 1832 and received his early education in private schools there. In 1850 he entered St. Charles College and upon graduation in 1854 was accepted at St. Mary's Seminary to prepare for the priesthood. He was ordained by Archbishop Francis P. Kenrick in the Baltimore Cathedral on June 28, 1858 and was assigned to St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown. Two years later Father Didier was transferred to Cumberland and in August of 1862 he was placed in charge of the missions in Montgomery County with residence at Rockville. In 1865 he returned to St. Mary's in Hagerstown where he again served for two years. He was next named assistant pastor at St. Peter's in Baltimore in 1867 and one year later was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church there by Archbishop Martin J. Spalding.

In 1871 Father Didier was transferred to



Baltimore's St. Vincent's Church as assistant pastor and in 1873 began a pastorate there which was to last almost twenty years. During this period extensive alterations were made in the church. Father Didier also established St. Vincent's Home for Girls, St. Vincent's Lyceum, and the St. James Home for Boys. While assigned to St. Vincent's Church, he made an extensive tour of Europe in 1883-1884 and during a stay in Rome was granted an audience with Pope Leo XIII. In 1892 Father Didier retired as pastor of St. Vincent's at the age of sixty after thirty-five years of his priesthood.

Following retirement from the active ministry, Father Didier served as Chaplain of the Carmelite Convent in Baltimore until his death. During this period he founded the Aisquith Street Home for Girls, and the St. Ann's Home for Aged Ladies. He also donated property in Baltimore to Loyola College.

On May 18, 1903, the seventy-year-old priest died of Bright's disease at St. Joseph's Hospital after an illness of nine days. Following a Requiem High Mass at St. Paul's Church, Father Didier was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in his native city of Baltimore.

*Father Placide Louis Chapelle,
Thirteenth Pastor of St. Mary's,
as a young priest at Rockville.*

*RIGHT: As Archbishop of
New Orleans.*



13.

Archbishop P. L. Chapelle

ARCHBISHOP PLACIDE LOUIS CHAPELLE was named as the thirteenth pastor of St. Mary's following his ordination and served from July 24, 1865 to May 25, 1870.

During this period the rectory at Rockville was enlarged and the one at Barnesville repaired. While pastor at Rockville the noted scholar studied for and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology by St. Mary's Seminary on July 24, 1868. It was also during his assignment at Rockville and the Montgomery County missions that he served as secretary of the Tenth Provincial Council of Balti-



more and accompanied Archbishop Michael J. Spalding as consulting theologian to the Vatican Council at Rome.

The Archbishop was born in Rheims, France, on August 28, 1842. After coming to the United States with an uncle, the Very Reverend Canon Chapelle, he attended St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore by Archbishop Spalding in June of 1865. After completing his pastorate at Rockville, Dr. Chapelle served as an assistant at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Baltimore until October of 1871 when he was

named pastor of St. Joseph's parish there. He was next appointed pastor of Washington's St. Matthew's by Archbishop James Gibbons in May of 1882.

While at Rockville he was active in the establishment of the Catholic University of America. Because of his work as vice president of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, he was appointed Coadjutor to Archbishop John B. Salpointe of Santa Fe at the latter's request. Dr. Chapelle was consecrated in 1891 and succeeded to the Archbishopric in 1894.

Dr. Chapelle was named Archbishop of New Orleans by Leo XIII in November of 1897. He was appointed Apostolic Delegate to Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1898, and to the Philippines in 1899.

Archbishop Chapelle died on August 9, 1905 during a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans and was buried in the crypt of the Cathedral of St. Louis there.

Father Henry Spruyt

DURING the Chapelle pastorate Father Henry Spruyt served as assistant pastor from 1867 to 1869 and attended the congregations at Clopper and Barnesville where he was the first resident priest.

Following his service in Montgomery County he was transferred to St. Augustine's Church at Elkridge Landing in Western Maryland.

The Belgian born priest joined the Diocese of Providence in 1873 and was assigned as assistant to the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul there. Father Spruyt was next named pastor at Centreville, Rhode Island, in 1874 and held this position at the time of his death in the Catholic Hospital in New Bedford, on August 7, 1879.

Bishop J. O'Sullivan

THE MOST REVEREND JEREMIAH O'SULLIVAN served as assistant pastor of St. Mary's, Rockville, from July of 1868 to June of 1870 with

responsibility for the mission at Barnesville. Bishop O'Sullivan was born in County Cork, Ireland, on February 9, 1842 and came to the United States in 1861. After completion of his studies at St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary he was ordained on June 30, 1868 by Archbishop Martin J. Spalding in Baltimore in the same class with Monsignor James F. Mackin who was to serve as the fourteenth pastor at Rockville. Following his service at Barnesville, Bishop O'Sullivan was assigned to St. Peter's Church in Westernport, Maryland, until transferred as assistant pastor to St. Peter's in Washington in July of 1878. In November he became pastor and served until consecrated there as the fourth Bishop of Mobile by Archbishop Gibbons on September 20, 1885. Bishop O'Sullivan died on August 10, 1896 and was buried in a vault at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Mobile.

Monsignor W. E. Starr

THE RIGHT REVEREND WILLIAM E. STARR served as assistant at Rockville from October of 1869 to March of 1870. Born in Baltimore in 1840, he was educated in the public schools there and at the Baltimore City College. Raised as a Presbyterian, he embraced the Catholic faith at the age of 21 and upon completion of his studies for the priesthood was ordained in Baltimore Cathedral by Archbishop Martin J. Spalding in 1869. After a few months at Immaculate Conception Church in Washington, the young priest was assigned to Rockville, and was next stationed at St. Paul's in Ellicott City from April of 1870 until named Chancellor of the Archdiocese in 1874. He was then named pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Baltimore in 1881 where he served 28 years until he became pastor emeritus in 1909. A close friend of James Cardinal Gibbons, Monsignor Starr was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius X in 1908 and in 1919 celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination at his home parish



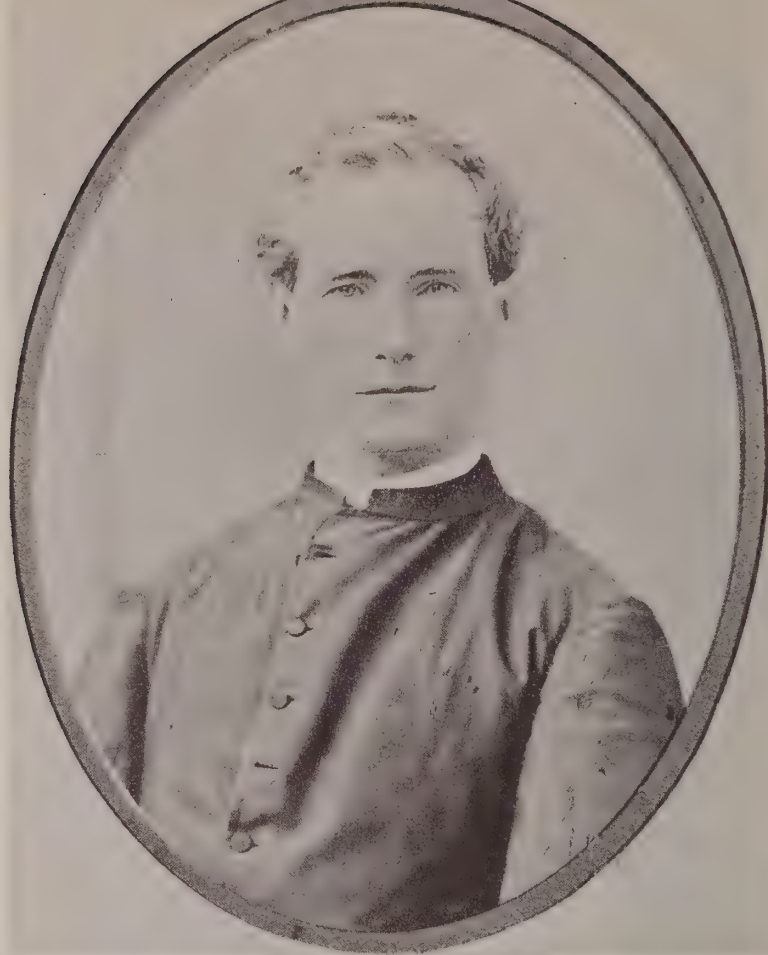
*The Most Reverend Jeremiah O'Sullivan
Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's, 1868-1870.
Monsignor William E. Starr
Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's 1869-1870*



of St. Vincent's in Baltimore where he had been baptized, confirmed, and offered his first Mass. The Monsignor died in Baltimore on October 16, 1921, and was buried following a Solemn

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Owen B. Corrigan at which the sermon was given by Monsignor James F. Mackin, the fourteenth pastor at Rockville.

*Father James F. Mackin
As a young priest at
Rockville*



14.

Monsignor J. F. Mackin

ST. MARY's fourteenth pastor was Monsignor James F. Mackin who served from May 26, 1870 to May 18, 1877.

During his pastorate land was acquired for a new school and St. Mary's Institute was completed in September of 1874. A similar school was established at St. John's in Forest Glen. During this period the church building in Rockville was extensively renovated with the addition of a Sunday school room, extension of the sacristy, redecoration of the interior, installation of a new altar and reconstruction of the church front including the addition of battlements and grill work and installation of the stained glass window above the entrance. He also improved the burial grounds and enclosed them with fencing. The only one of St. Mary's former clergy to hold a lot in the cemetery there, he selected a spot where in his own words, the morning sun throws the shadow of the (steeple) cross over the graves.

One of five children of Francis and Mary Matthews Mackin, he was born in Baltimore on June 29, 1838, and attended St. Patrick's Parochial School and Central High School. At the age of eighteen he signed on a whaling ship in New Bedford, Massachusetts, as a seaman and roamed the Atlantic Ocean for three years during which the ship was once stranded on a reef near the Isle of France.

Upon his return from the sea, the Monsignor rejoined his family in Baltimore and from 1861 to 1864 attended St. Charles College. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Martin J. Spalding on June 30, 1868. The new priest was first assigned as curate to St. Matthew's parish in Washington where he served until appointed pastor at Rockville in the summer of 1870.

During his seven years as pastor of St. Mary's, the traffic of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal had

*and, as
pastor at St. Paul's,
Washington.*

reached its height and the roving priest used its towpath as one of his routes when making his mission rounds throughout the County on horseback.

Upon leaving Rockville he was appointed as assistant pastor of St. Martin's Church in Baltimore in late May of 1877. He was next transferred as pastor to St. Joseph's Church there in May of 1882. In October of 1885 he returned to St. Matthew's in Washington as assistant to Dr. Placide L. Chapelle who had preceded Monsignor Mackin as the thirteenth pastor at Rockville.

While at St. Matthew's Monsignor Mackin was assigned responsibility for forming the new parish of St. Paul. A chapel was completed in 1886, the rectory in 1889 and the church in 1894. During this last pastorate the Monsignor organized the first male choir for liturgical chant in the United States. It was also here that the Christ Child Society was founded by Mary V. Merrick and the Convent of Perpetual Adoration erected and endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan. St. Paul's first pastor was the first Catholic priest to open a session of the U.S. House of Representatives with prayer. Elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate by Pius X on November 26, 1908, the Monsignor celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood on July 2, 1918 at St. Paul's. In 1953 St. Paul's High School was renamed Mackin in honor of the parish's founder.

One of the best known priests of the Washington and Baltimore areas, Monsignor Mackin died of pneumonia at Georgetown University Hospital on April 19, 1925. Four days later a Pontifical Mass of Requiem was celebrated at St. Paul's by Archbishop Michael J. Curley of Baltimore.

St. Mary's fourteenth pastor, who had roamed an ocean for whales and a canal towpath for souls, was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.



DURING the pastorate of Monsignor Mackin, Father Casper Schmitt served as assistant for six months in 1874. The brother of the Reverend Valentine F. Schmitt, the first diocesan pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Washington, Father Casper Schmitt also served at St. Martin's in Baltimore and was later assigned to Westernport, Maryland. After service at Oakland, California, Father Schmitt died in 1924 while serving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as Chaplain of St. Joseph's Home for the Aged at Kenosha, Wisconsin.



15.

Father J. A. Cunningham

FATHER JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM served at Rockville as the fifteenth pastor of St. Mary's from May of 1877 through 1880.

Father Cunningham was a native of Ireland and received his basic education there. After coming to the United States he undertook studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained in the Cathedral there by Archbishop James R. Bayley in June of 1874. Immediately thereafter he was assigned as assistant to St. John the Evangelist Church in Baltimore. He next served as pastor at Rockville for three years and was then transferred as assistant to Baltimore's St. Vincent's Church where he remained for eight years. Father Cunningham became assistant pastor of St. Joseph's in that city in 1890 and was trans-

ferred in 1893 to St. Thomas' Church in the Woodbury section of Baltimore where he served as pastor for thirteen years.

Father Cunningham was the founder of a lay society dedicated to the promotion of the recitation of the leaflet prayers. He served as chaplain of the American Council of the Knights of Columbus and was active in the work of the Aquinas Council of the Catholic Benevolent Legion. The Irish born priest was also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Father Cunningham died suddenly of a heart attack at St. Thomas' rectory on November 17, 1906. Following the Requiem Mass at the church, at which James Cardinal Gibbons presided, Father Cunningham was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

Father J. S. Gallen

THE sixteenth pastor of St. Mary's was Father Joseph S. Gallen who served from January of 1881 through May of 1883.

As in the case of his immediate predecessor at Rockville, Father Gallen was a native of Ireland who received much of his education there. Born in 1851 he came to the United States at the age of twenty-four with a college background and entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore to complete his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by Archbishop James Gibbons in 1877 and assigned to the Immaculate Conception parish in Washington where he remained through 1880. Following his pastorate at Rockville he was transferred to St. Leo's Church in Baltimore in 1884 and then to St. Patrick's in Cumberland in 1885. He returned to Baltimore in 1886 and served at St. Peter's there for nine years before being assigned in 1898 as pastor of SS. Philip and James Church where he assisted in the construction of that new building while remaining in residence at St. Peter's until his own rectory was completed in 1900.

In April of 1901 Father Gallen returned to Washington to become assistant pastor of St. Peter's Church. Because of poor health he was forced to return to Baltimore and entered Mercy Hospital there. During an illness of four years he was also hospitalized at St. Agnes' and St. Joseph's before returning to Mercy Hospital where he died on July 19, 1910 at the age of fifty-nine and in the thirty-third year of his priesthood. A Pontifical Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral on July 22, 1910 by Auxiliary Bishop Owen B. Corrigan. Father Gallen was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery.





*Father Sebastian Rabbia
Seventeenth Pastor of St. Mary's*

17.

Father Sebastian Rabbia

FATHER SEBASTIAN RABBIA became the seventeenth pastor of St. Mary's in June of 1883 and remained through December of 1884.

While no additional construction was undertaken in this period, major repairs of the church property were made both at Rockville and the mission Church of St. John in Forest Glen.

Father Rabbia was born in Italy at Cuneo in the Province of Piedmont in 1840. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1866 by the Archbishop of Genoa after completion of studies at the Collegia Bruigonele there and came to America in 1867. From May 1868 to September 1878 he was stationed at St. Peter's in Washington as assistant to Father Francis E. Boyle who had preceded the Italian born priest as the tenth pastor of the Star of the Sea Church in Baltimore. Following his year and a half service at Rockville, he was transferred as assistant to Baltimore's St. Patrick's Church in early January of 1885. Father Rabbia was next named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown on January 4, 1887. His health began to fail a few years later and an assistant was assigned to assist him there.

At the age of 71, Father Rabbia died suddenly of heart disease on the morning of March 27, 1911 while talking with the Reverend Albert E. Smith in the rectory. Requiem Mass was offered at St. Mary's by Bishop Owen B. Corrigan. The body was then sent to Washington where services were conducted at St. Peter's Church with James Cardinal Gibbons in attendance. Father Rabbia was buried in Washington's Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Father J. M. Connelly

THE eighteenth pastor at Rockville was Father James Michael Connelly who served at St. Mary's from January of 1885 to November of 1889.

During this period the rectory was enlarged and Father Connelly also completed a three room structure at Forest Glen for the overnight housing of priests who traveled there on Saturdays to offer Mass the next day.

Father Connelly had been raised in the St. Joseph's Orphanage, then located at the site of the Woodward & Lothrop building in downtown Washington, and attended St. Charles College, after which he completed his studies for the priesthood at the North American College in Rome. After the four year pastorate at Rockville he served at St. Patrick's Church in Baltimore until 1892 when he was assigned to Epiphany Apostolic College in Highland Park, Maryland. For two years from 1895 to 1897 he was stationed at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Mt. Washington, Maryland, following which he was made pastor of Mt. Carmel Church in Middle River, Maryland. After having retired because of poor health he died there on June 12, 1918.

A Solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated at the Baltimore Cathedral on June 15, 1918, at which the sermon was preached by Monsignor Riordan who had assisted Father Connelly during his pastorate at Rockville.

Monsignor M. J. Riordan

DURING Father Connelly's pastorate Monsignor Michael J. Riordan served as assistant from June of 1888 until he became pastor at Barnesville in 1889. The Monsignor

was born in Westernport, Maryland, on July 18, 1861, the son of Owen and Hannah Sheehan Riordan, and received his early education there. Rejecting an appointment to the United States Military Academy in order to study for the priesthood, he was graduated from St. Charles College and then attended St. Mary's Seminary for a year. He was next sent to the North American College in Rome where he was ordained by Lucido Cardinal Parocchi on May 26, 1888 and received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

After celebrating his first Mass in St. Peter's he visited Ireland to preach his first sermon at the old parish church of his parents.

Upon his return to the United States the newly ordained priest was assigned as curate to St. Mary's but assumed the pastorate of St. Mary's in Barnesville in 1889 with Clopper as the mission. On April 2, 1899 he was appointed pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Pikesville where he served until 1914. During this period he attended the Eucharistic Congress in Madrid in 1909 as the official representative of James Cardinal Gibbons. The Monsignor was next assigned as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Washington on July 30, 1914 and remained until placed in charge of St. Martin's there in June of 1923.

Monsignor Riordan was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate by Pius XI on May 29, 1938.

The Monsignor died at St. Martin's rectory on May 18, 1943 at the age of 82 and in the fifty-fifth year of his priesthood. The Solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by the Right Reverend Charles R. O'Hara who had served as the twenty-sixth pastor of St. Mary's at Rockville. Monsignor Riordan was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

19.

Father C. O. Rosensteel

FATHER CHARLES OSCAR ROSENSTEEL, one of the last of the pioneer priests, served as St. Mary's nineteenth pastor from November 1, 1889 through November 1, 1898.

During this period the interior of the church was altered to increase its seating capacity. In addition Father Rosensteel moved the confessional from the sacristy to the rear of the building, added a frame vestibule at the entrance and installed a bell in the steeple. James Cardinal Gibbons made his first visitation as a Prince of the Church at St. Mary's during Father Rosensteel's pastorate to confirm a group of parish children in 1890. While serving at Rockville, Father Rosensteel began the construction of St. Peter's Church in Olney, and the new St. John's Church and rectory at Forest Glen.

Father Rosensteel was born on a farm near Emmitsburg on May 13, 1855, one of the children of Thomas and Mary Singer Rosensteel, and received his early education at St. Francis College at Loretto, Pennsylvania. He next attended St. Mary's College and entered St. Mary's Seminary in 1880. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Gibbons in Baltimore December 20, 1884 and immediately assigned as assistant to St. Ann's Church there. A year later he was named pastor of St. Mary's at Newport where he served until undertaking



his pastorate at Rockville in November of 1889. Nine years later Father Rosensteel was transferred to St. John's in Forest Glen and thus became the second resident pastor there and the first in over a hundred years since Archbishop John Carroll moved from St. John's to Baltimore in 1786. While at Forest Glen Father Rosensteel was responsible for the completion of the third church building erected there, the construction of the original Churches of the Nativity, D.C., and of the Holy Redeemer, Kensington, and a replica of the first Carroll Chapel at Forest Glen which he equipped with the original altar. On November 4, 1934 Father Rosensteel celebrated his golden jubilee of ordination at St. John's.

Father Rosensteel left Forest Glen in April of 1939 because of failing health and died at the home of a sister in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on June 13, 1940, at the age of eighty-six and in the fifty-sixth year of his priesthood. Following a Solemn High Mass of Requiem on June 16, 1940 at Forest Glen, Father Rosensteel was buried in the church cemetery there.



20.

Monsignor J. A. Cunnane

Upon returning to the United States he was assigned as assistant to St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, in the fall of 1879 and was transferred in 1880 as pastor to St. Mary's at Newport and its mission at Cob's Neck. Monsignor Cunnane returned to St. Mary's in Upper Marlboro as pastor in 1882 and after fourteen years moved to St. Anthony's in Washington as pastor in June of 1897. Following his eighteen months pastorate at Rockville, he transferred as assistant to St. Andrew's in Baltimore in 1900. At this point his health again failed and he was hospitalized at St. Agnes' Hospital there. Upon recovery he returned to St. Andrew's where he became pastor in 1906 and remained until his death on December 13, 1939.

Monsignor Cunnane served as Secretary to the Court examining evidence in the cause of canonization of Blessed Mother Seton and carried the testimony obtained to Rome in 1911. He was named a Domestic Prelate on November 17, 1924, and celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood on November 3, 1929. Archbishop Michael J. Curley presided at the Solemn Pontifical High Mass at St. Andrew's on that occasion, and also at the celebration of the Monsignor's sixtieth anniversary of ordination on October 29, 1939 which was also attended by the Governor of Maryland and the Mayor of Baltimore.

On December 12, 1939, Monsignor Cunnane suffered a stroke at St. Andrew's rectory and died the following day at Baltimore's Bon Secours Hospital. Following a Pontifical Requiem Mass sung by Archbishop Curley at St. Andrew's, he was buried beside his mother in the cemetery at St. Charles College in Catonsville.

THE twentieth pastor at Rockville was Monsignor Joseph Aloysius Cunnane who came to St. Mary's in December of 1898 and served until June of 1900.

During his pastorate the sacristy of the church was enlarged and a circular stained glass window installed above the main altar.

Monsignor Cunnane was born in Bayou Sara, Louisiana, on July 26, 1853, the son of Michael and Elizabeth Onthank Cunnane. He was brought to Ellicott City, Maryland, while a small child following his father's death and received his early education in private schools there. Monsignor Cunnane entered St. Charles College in 1867 and after graduation in 1873 served as a member of the faculty for one year. After attending St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore for two years, he entered the American College in Rome in 1876 but because of poor health transferred to the Marseilles Seminary in southern France in 1877 and there completed his studies for the priesthood. Monsignor Cunnane was ordained on July 26, 1879 in the private chapel of the Bishop of Marseilles.



21.

Father S. S. Hurlbut

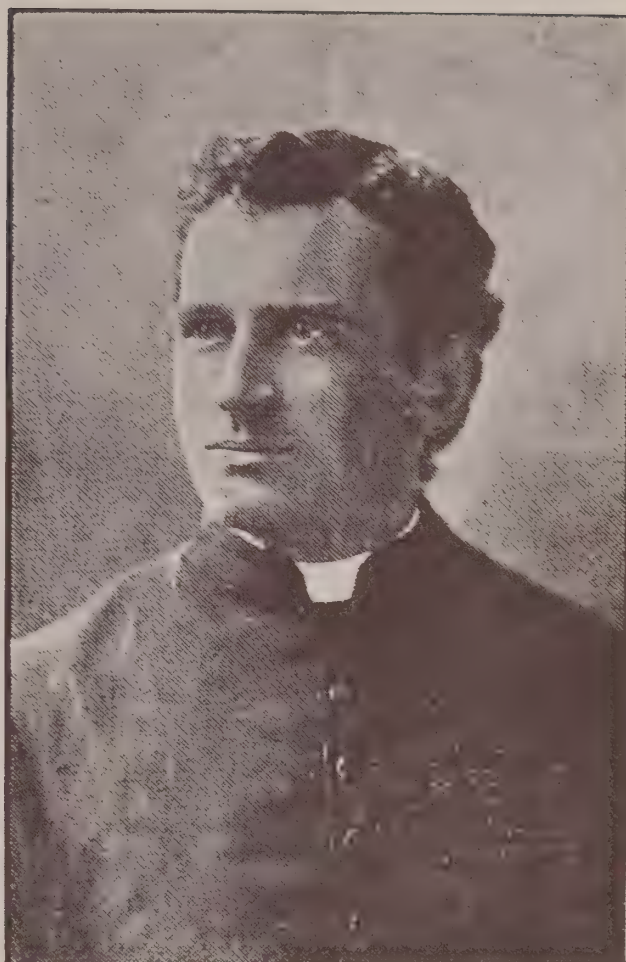
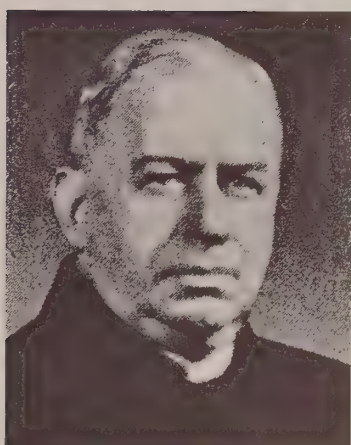
THE shortest pastorate in the history of St. Mary's was that of Father Sidney S. Hurlbut who served as the twenty-first pastor in 1900. The baptismal records contain entries by him only for July of that year.

Father Hurlbut was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on November 13, 1858 and received his early education in the public schools there. He was later employed with the Bureau of Engraving in Washington and with the American Bank Note Company in Chicago. A member of the Presbyterian, and later the Congregational, Church in early life, he embraced the Catholic faith and was ordained to the priesthood in Bulgaria. After a stay in Rome he returned to Washington and served at St. Paul's Church as

assistant to Monsignor James F. Mackin. In the summer of 1900 Father Hurlbut was given his brief assignment at Rockville where Monsignor Mackin had preceded him as St. Mary's fourteenth pastor. Father Hurlbut was then appointed pastor of St. Louis' Church in Clarks-ville and in 1911 became the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown.

Father Hurlbut died in Mercy Hospital on June 9, 1920. Following a Solemn Requiem High Mass on June 12, an honor guard of male parishioners of St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown escorted their pastor's body to the railroad station. Father Hurlbut was buried in the family plot in Racine, Wisconsin.

*Father John Gaynor,
as the twenty-second
Pastor of St. Mary's;
as he appeared
in later years.*



22.

Father J. T. Gaynor

FATHER JOHN T. GAYNOR came to St. Mary's in August of 1900 and served as the twenty-second pastor for one year.

A noted scholar, writer and orator, Father Gaynor was born in Baltimore on October 21, 1868. After attending St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary he was ordained to the priesthood on September 21, 1894 by James Cardinal Gibbons in the Baltimore Cathedral where his Irish parents, Martin and Anne Clark Gaynor, had been married by the Cardinal in 1867.

Father Gaynor's first assignment was as assistant pastor at his home parish of St. John. In 1895 he was appointed pastor of St. Louis Church in Clarksville and while there also

ministered to the congregation at the chapel of Doughorhegan Manor, the old Carroll estate. After five years Father Gaynor was transferred as pastor to St. Mary's in Rockville. In August of 1901 he was assigned as assistant at St. Patrick's Church in Washington where he remained for two years. Father Gaynor was transferred in 1903 to St. Luke's Church at Sparrows Point and undertook a pastorate which was to last for almost thirty years and ended with his death on April 4, 1933.

On April 7, 1933 the Reverend John P. McCormick, SS, a nephew, celebrated Solemn High Mass of Requiem at which Archbishop Michael J. Curley presided. Father Gaynor was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

Father T. D. Williams



FATHER THOMAS DAVID WILLIAMS became the twenty-third pastor of St. Mary's in September of 1901 and served until April of 1904.

During his pastorate the first gaslights were installed to replace the oil lamps which had previously provided the church lighting. It was also during this period that the first Midnight Mass was celebrated at Rockville on Christmas of 1901.

Father Williams was born in Washington in 1873 and received his early education at Immaculate Conception School and Gonzaga High School there. He attended St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained in Baltimore by James Cardinal Gibbons in 1897. His first assignment was as assistant at St. Martin's Church in Baltimore where he remained until his transfer as pastor to St. Mary's, in Rockville, in the fall of 1901. He left Rockville in 1904 and served for five years as assistant at St. Stephen's Church in Washington. Father Williams next served as pastor of St. Mary's in Govans, Maryland, and was later transferred as pastor to St. Anthony's Church in Washington where he remained seven years. He was then named pastor of St. William's in Baltimore and thereafter became chaplain of the Mission Helpers at the Sacred Heart Convent there.

A well known author of religious books, Father Williams spent the last ten years of his life at Baltimore's Bon Secours Hospital where he observed his golden jubilee of ordination in December of 1947. During this period he regularly contributed a weekly column to the *Catholic Review* under the title of "Your Little Meditations."

Father Williams died at the hospital on January 8, 1949 and was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Washington.



24.

Father P. B. McGuire

THE twenty-fourth pastor of St. Mary's was Monsignor Philip Bernard McGuire who was assigned to Rockville in May of 1904 and served until May of 1912.

During the Monsignor's pastorate a steam heating system was installed in the church replacing the coal stoves previously used. Additional property was acquired for the parish and the St. Mary's Cemetery Association was established to govern the operation and maintenance of the burial grounds.

The son of John and Mary McGuire, the Monsignor was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and received his early schooling there. He began his studies for the priesthood with the Fathers of the Resurrection in Ontario, Canada, and after attending the Benedictine College of St. Vincent in Beatty, Pennsylvania, transferred to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore where he completed his studies under the Sulpicians. He

was ordained to the priesthood by James Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore on December 18, 1897. He was first assigned as assistant pastor at St. Peter's Church in Washington and then returned to Baltimore where he served as assistant at St. Elizabeth's parish. He was next stationed at St. Joseph's Church at Buckeystown as assistant until 1904 when he undertook his eight-year pastorate at Rockville. Monsignor McGuire was named pastor of St. Vincent's Church in Baltimore in 1912 and served that parish until his death twenty-seven years later, in 1939.

Named a Domestic Prelate in the fall of 1939 he died at Baltimore's Bon Secour Hospital on October 16 of that year before his scheduled formal investiture. At his death Monsignor McGuire was attended by Archbishop Michael J. Curley who celebrated the Solemn Mass of Requiem in St. Vincent's.



25.

Father J. T. Coolahan

FATHER JOHN T. COOLAHAN became the twenty-fifth pastor at Rockville in June of 1912 and served until June of 1929. This seventeen-year pastorate was the longest of all the priests assigned to St. Mary's parish from the time of its establishment in 1813 until the appointment of the present pastor in 1943.

Major renovations and new construction were undertaken and completed during Father Coolahan's ministry at Rockville. The present rectory was completed in 1917 and the parish hall was constructed a few years later. During this period a new heating plant was installed, the lighting system was changed from gas to electricity and the interior of the Church was completely redecorated. For the first time an automobile was acquired for the use of the pastor on his rounds.

Rockville's First World War pastor was born in Baltimore in 1877 the son of Malachi F. and Ellen Farrell Coolahan, but was taken to Ireland

while a child. Following graduation from Maynooth College there he returned to the United States and entered St. Mary's Seminary. Immediately after ordination to the priesthood by James Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore in 1902, he was assigned as assistant to the Church of St. John the Evangelist in that city. He was next transferred to St. Vincent de Paul's Church in Baltimore as assistant pastor and remained there until undertaking his lengthy pastorate at Rockville. After leaving St. Mary's in 1929 he served for three years as pastor of St. John's Church in Frederick.

Father Coolahan died in the Union Memorial Hospital on May 21, 1932. Following a Solemn High Mass of Requiem in the church where he had completed his ministry, Rockville's twenty-fifth pastor was buried in St. John's Cemetery in Frederick, and in death again followed the first pastor of St. Mary's who had been laid to rest in the same burial ground one hundred and ten years before.



26.

Monsignor C. R. O'Hara

THE twenty-sixth pastor of St. Mary's was Monsignor Charles Raymond O'Hara who came to Rockville on July 6, 1929 and served until November of 1936.

During Monsignor O'Hara's pastorate an extensive renovation of the church building was completed in December of 1931. These improvements included new structural supports, replacement of the frame vestibule with one of brick conforming more to the semi-colonial style of the building, reconstruction of the sacristies and balcony, construction of a basement, installation of a new heating plant and light fixtures, placement of the new pews, and interior and exterior redecoration. It was also during this period that the Holy Name Society was solemnly established at St. Mary's on June 15, 1930 with Bishop John M. McNamara presiding.

Monsignor O'Hara was born in Baltimore on July 23, 1882 and received his early education at St. John the Evangelist's parochial school there. The oldest child of Patrick Arthur and Ann Scheeler O'Hara, he was forced to abandon

full time schooling for work at the age of twelve upon the sudden death of his father in a railroad accident. When the family's financial problems had eased with the growth of the younger children, he entered St. Charles College and upon graduation began his studies at St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Baltimore Cathedral on June 17, 1913 by James Cardinal Gibbons. The young priest's first assignment was as assistant at St. Patrick's Church in Cumberland where he remained for four years. He was next named pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea at Indian Head following which he undertook his eighteen-month pastorate at Rockville.

On April 11, 1935, while in St. Mary's Rectory visiting with Father Cecil J. McNeil of Catholic University, Monsignor O'Hara heard the crash of a bus and train at the grade crossing adjacent to the church property. The bus occupants were students of Williamsport High School and the victims, including fourteen killed, were ministered to by the two priests, one of whose ordination had been delayed because of the death of his father in such a railroad accident.

From Rockville, Monsignor O'Hara was transferred in December of 1936 to his last pastorate at Holy Comforter Church in Washington where he served nearly ten years. There he assisted in the construction of a new church building and at the time of his death was arranging for the redecoration of the interior of the church.

Monsignor O'Hara was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII in August of 1939 and was invested at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore on the occasion of the celebration of the silver jubilee of the ordination of Archbishop Michael J. Curley.

Monsignor O'Hara died at Providence Hospital in Washington on October 13, 1946 after a brief illness. A Solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated at Holy Comforter on October 16, 1946 with Bishop Lawrence J. Sheehan officiating. Monsignor O'Hara was buried beside his parents in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

Monsignor J. J. Coady



MONSIGNOR JOHN J. COADY became St. Mary's twenty-seventh pastor in November of 1936 and remained at Rockville until May of 1941.

During his pastorate the present organ was installed and Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, then Apostolic Delegate to the United States, presided at its dedication on May 8, 1938.

Monsignor Coady was born in Baltimore on July 21, 1894 and was one of the three of the nine children of Thomas Francis and Theresa Cleary Coady to enter the religious life. Two others became members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. Monsignor Coady received his early education at Baltimore's St. Mary Star of the Sea parish school and then attended St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary. Following ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Owen B. Corrigan in the Baltimore Cathedral on September 8, 1918, he was assigned to the faculty of St. Charles College for two years. During this period Monsignor Coady served as a curate in the summers at Atlantic City, New Jersey. In

1920 he was sent to Rome where he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology by the Angelicum University in 1922. Monsignor Coady was also granted a Doctorate in Canon and Roman Law by the Catholic University of America in 1929. During his period of study in Rome, he served as a priest at London's Westminster Cathedral in the summer of 1921.

Upon returning to the United States in 1922, the Monsignor was assigned as assistant pastor at St. Matthew's Church in Washington with teaching duties during the week at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. After a fourteen-year stay at St. Matthew's, he undertook his four and a half year pastorate at Rockville in 1936. From St. Mary's Dr. Coady was transferred as pastor to St. Anthony's Church in Washington, and in 1950 succeeded Bishop John J. Russell as pastor of Nativity Church.

Dr. Coady, who has also served the Archdiocese as a Judge of the Tribunal, was named a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII in 1952.

Father Thomas J. McKew

FATHER THOMAS J. MCKEW served as the twenty-eighth pastor of St. Mary's from June of 1941 to June of 1943.

The son of William H. and Margaret Fahey McKew, he was born on December 9, 1893 in Baltimore where he received his early education. Following graduation from St. Charles College he entered St. Mary's Seminary and upon completion of his studies for the priesthood was ordained by James Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore on May 25, 1920. Father McKew's first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. John's Church in Frederick. He then joined the faculty at St. Charles College where he taught for five years.

In 1926 Father McKew returned to parish work as an assistant at SS. Philip and James Church in Baltimore and in 1928 was named Administrator there. One year later he was transferred as pastor to St. Mary's in Barnesville and in June of 1936 became pastor of St. Mary's in Bryantown. At this time he was appointed Dean of Southern Maryland and Spiritual Director of the Southern Maryland Section of the Baltimore Archdiocesan Holy Name Union. This was followed by the two-year pastorate at Rockville. He was transferred from St. Mary's in June of 1943 and became pastor of St. Brigid's Church in Baltimore where he served until his death.

Father McKew became ill in August of 1957 while in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and was admitted to the hospital there. Two weeks later he was moved to Mercy Hospital in Baltimore where he died on October 25, 1957. Following a Pontifical Mass of Requiem sung by Archbishop Keough at St. Brigid's, Father McKew was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery.





Left to right: Father Peter C. Boyle, Father Joseph F. Thorning, Father Thomas A. Kane, Father Francis J. Lauriola, Father Martin F. Perkinson, Father J. Gregory Echle.

Reverend Joseph F. Thorning

DURING the early part of Father Hann's pastorate, Father Joseph F. Thorning, Ph.D., S.T.D., served as assistant pastor at Rockville from June of 1944 to 1946. While at St. Mary's he served as moderator of the Holy Name Society.

Born at Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, April 25, 1896, Father Thorning received his early education there and then attended Marquette Academy, Holy Cross College, St. Louis University, Georgetown University, the Catholic University of America and Oxford. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Louis University by Archbishop John Glennon on June 28, 1928.

A noted writer and authority on Central and South America, Father Thorning is now pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Carrollton Manor, Maryland.

Reverend J. Gregory Echle

FATHER JOHN GREGORY ECHLE was assigned to St. Mary's as assistant pastor immediately after ordination and served from January of 1946 to June of 1952.

While stationed at Rockville he was moderator of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, and moderator of the Holy Name Society of the mission Church of St. Peter's at Olney.

Father Echle was born in Baltimore on May 4, 1921, where he received his early education. After attending St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary he was ordained by Bishop John M. McNamara in the Baltimore Cathedral on December 22, 1945. Following his six-year assignment at Rockville he was transferred as assistant pastor to Holy Comforter parish in Washington in 1952. His next assignment was at Mt. Calvary parish in Forestville in 1957 after which he served as pastor successively at Ascension Church in

Bowie from 1960 to August of 1961 and at St. Mary's in Upper Marlboro from 1961 until the present.

Reverend Thomas A. Kane

FATHER THOMAS A. KANE served as assistant pastor at Rockville from June of 1952 to November of 1953.

While at St. Mary's he was chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, and moderator of the Sodality, and was also in charge of the Catholic Youth Organization and of the Altar Boy Society.

Father Kane was born in Washington on June 13, 1927 and received his early education at Nativity parish school before attending St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in Washington by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle on June 7, 1952. Following his first assignment as a priest, Father Kane left Rockville in 1953 for St. Bernard's Church in Riverdale as assistant pastor. In June of 1962 he was assigned to his present position as assistant at St. John's Church in Silver Spring.

Reverend Francis J. Lauriola

FATHER FRANCIS J. LAURIOLA, the first and present pastor of St. Jude's Church, was stationed at St. Mary's as assistant pastor from 1953 until 1956 when he left to found his present parish.

While at St. Mary's Father Lauriola served as moderator of the Sodality and of the Holy Name Society and as director of the Marian Club.

Born in Washington on February 5, 1912, he received his early education at St. Teresa's grade school and at Gonzaga High School. He then attended St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary. Father Lauriola was ordained to the priesthood in Baltimore



Cathedral by Bishop John M. McNamara on June 8, 1939. His first assignment was at St. Joseph's Church in Baltimore where he was stationed as assistant pastor until 1943 when he entered military service as an army chaplain. At the end of the Second World War he returned to the Archdiocese and served as assistant at St. John's parish in Forest Glen from 1946 to 1948 and at St. Bernadette's in Silver Spring from 1948 to 1950.

Father Lauriola resumed military life in 1950 as an air force chaplain and upon his return in 1953 was named assistant at St. Mary's. Three years later St. Jude's parish was established and Father Lauriola was named as its first pastor.

Reverend Peter C. Boyle

FATHER PETER C. BOYLE was assigned to St. Mary's as a newly ordained priest in May of 1954 and remained at Rockville as assistant pastor until September of 1958.

During this period he served as moderator of both the Holy Name Society and Sodality, director of the Marian Club and was also in charge of the Catholic Youth Organization and the Altar Boy Society. Father Boyle was active in the establishment of the Rockville Church Basketball League in 1955 and the Boys Baseball Association in 1956.

One of the twin sons of Manus and Hannah Dugan Boyle, he was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on May 6, 1924. The holder of both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees he attended St. Mary's grade school and the Holy Family Academy in Bayonne, St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary at Holy Trinity, Alabama, Fordham University, the Catholic University of America and St. Vincent's Seminary at Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Father Boyle was ordained to the priesthood in St.

Matthew's Cathedral, Washington, by Archbishop O'Boyle on May 1, 1954 and was assigned to Rockville. Leaving St. Mary's on September 22, 1958, he served as assistant pastor at St. Teresa's parish in Washington until June 19, 1962, when he was transferred as assistant pastor to St. Ambrose Church in Cheverly.

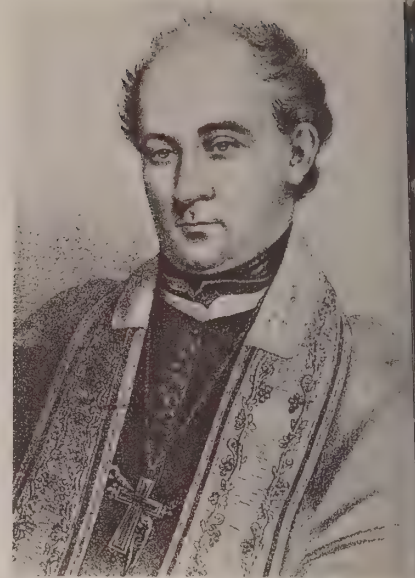
Reverend Martin F. Perkinson

FOLLOWING his ordination in May of 1956, Father Martin F. Perkinson was assigned to St. Mary's as assistant pastor and served at Rockville until September of 1960.

In this period he was moderator of the Sodality and of the Holy Name Society and also directed the activities of the parish Catholic Youth Organization, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Altar Boy Society.

The son of Martin Francis and Loretta Garrity Perkinson, he was born in Pittsburgh on August 22, 1926. He attended St. Agnes' parish school in Cleveland and after moving to Washington, D.C., received his high school education at St. Paul's High School, since renamed Mackin in honor of St. Mary's fourteenth pastor. After a two-year period of army air force service, he entered St. Charles College and completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. Father Perkinson was ordained by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle in Washington's St. Matthew's Cathedral on May 26, 1956.

Following his service at Rockville, Father Perkinson was assigned as assistant pastor to Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Takoma Park from September 17, 1960 to September 8, 1962 when he was transferred to his present position as assistant at Mt. Calvary Church in Forestville.



Left to right, top to bottom: Archbishop James Whitfield, Archbishop Samuel Eccleston, Archbishop Michael J. Curley, Archbishop Francis P. Kenrick, Archbishop Ambrose Marechal, Archbishop Martin J. Spalding.

Left to right, top to bottom: James Cardinal Gibbons, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan (Present Archbishop of Baltimore), Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley, Auxiliary Bishop Owen B. Corrigan, Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. McCormick, Auxiliary Bishop John M. McNamara.





Father J. Gilbert Hann

29.

Reverend J. Gilbert Hann

THE present and twenty-ninth pastor of St. Mary's came to Rockville in June of 1943. The lives of Father Hann and the priests now assisting him are covered in the following chapter devoted to the current clergy of St. Mary's.

4

Clergy of the Present

FATHER JOSEPH GILBERT HANN became the twenty-ninth pastor of St. Mary's in June of 1943. This is the longest pastorate in the history of the parish and the celebration of St. Mary's Sesquicentennial coincides with Father Hann's twentieth anniversary of service at Rockville.

Through those years the present pastor has guided his parishioners from the position of a rural congregation of 700 to a present status of an urban parish ministering to a body of communicants almost ten times larger.

During this period more construction has taken place than at any time in the history of the church at Rockville. The present school, auditorium, and convent were erected and the older properties extensively improved.

A significant advance in handling the burden of financing the operations of the parish was the introduction in 1960, at the suggestion of the Men's Club, of a Three Per Cent Plan of voluntary contributions which eliminated the need for special fund raising devices.

The son of Michael Frederick and Josephine Irene Gilbert Hann, the pastor was born in

Westminster, Maryland, on October 21, 1900, and received his early education at St. John's parochial school there. Following graduation from St. Charles College in Catonsville, he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was next sent to the North American College in Rome to complete his studies for the priesthood and was ordained there for the Archdiocese of Baltimore by Archbishop Pallica of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in St. John Lateran Basilica on April 3, 1926.

The young priest's first assignment was as curate at All Saints parish in Baltimore where he remained until transferred as assistant pastor to St. Mary's Church in Hagerstown. In 1941 Father Hann was appointed to his first pastorate of St. Joseph's parish in Buckeystown and served there until moving to Rockville as pastor in June of 1943.

A versatile athlete in his earlier days, the present pastor has encouraged the development of sports activities for the young of the parish and has retained an active interest in all of the various organizations of his still growing congregation.



Father James J. Reddy

REVEREND JAMES J. REDDY came to St. Mary's parish in June of 1958.

Father Reddy is moderator of the Sodality, the Junior Sodality, the Legion of Mary and the Junior Legion of Mary. He also serves as moderator of the Sodality of Our Lady at Holy Cross Academy in Garrett Park and Chaplain of the Irish American Social Club of Washington, and the Montgomery County Detention Home.

The son of Thomas and Ellen Quinn Reddy, Father Reddy was born on November 6, 1933 in County Kilkenny, Ireland, and received his education there at Clogga National School, the Christian Brothers High School, St. Kieran's College and St. Kieran's Seminary.

Father Reddy was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny by the Most Rev. Dr.

Patrick Dunne on June 8, 1958 for the Archdiocese of Washington where his first assignment was to St. Mary's.

REVEREND JOHN W. HEMMING was assigned to St. Mary's as a newly ordained priest in June of 1959.

He is the present moderator of the parish Catholic Youth Organization, the St. Mary's Cana Clubs, and the Altar Boy Society. In addition he serves as chaplain of the Montgomery Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The son of Winston A. and Katherine McMahon Hemming, he was born in Washington on August 29, 1928 and received his early education at St. Francis Xavier Grade School and St. Paul's High School, now named Mackin.



Father Robert O. McMain



Father John W. Hemming

Father Hemming is the second graduate of the school renamed in honor of St. Mary's fourteenth pastor, to serve at Rockville.

After attending Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg and the Seminary of the same name there, he was ordained in St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington on June 23, 1959.

REVEREND ROBERT OWEN McMAIN was transferred to St. Mary's parish in August of 1960 following eleven years service as assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in southeast Washington.

Father McMain is moderator of the Holy Name Society, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and the Young Adult Club.

The son of Thomas W. and Mary Curran

McMain and the twin of Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart, S.N.D., he was born in Portland, Maine, on January 21, 1924. Brought to the Washington area as a child, he received his early education at John Burroughs and St. James grade schools and Gonzaga High School. Following graduation from St. Charles College, he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, and was ordained by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington in St. Matthew's Cathedral on June 11, 1949.

The Chaplain of the 163rd Military Police Battalion of the D.C. Army National Guard since 1954, he also serves as moderator of the spiritual committee of the archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization; and as guidance counselor at Holy Cross Academy.

St. Mary's School





5

Saint Mary's School

Early History

FROM the beginning of its one hundred and fifty year history, St. Mary's Church and its priests have paid special care to the religious education of the children. In the early days the visits of the priests to the congregations of Montgomery County were confined to one a month, at Rockville, Rock Creek, Barnesville and Seneca. Whenever a fifth Sunday occurred during the month, the pastor visited St. Peter's Mission at Hollin's (Hawling's) River.

On these regular Sunday visits, the children usually received their religious instruction following the Mass. Sometimes, especially during the summer months, the pastor spent Sunday night at the mission he was attending in order to offer Mass for parishioners again on the following morning. On these days the entire Monday morning was again devoted to the instruction of the young.

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation was always a joyful event. Every few

years, when the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered, the Archbishop of Baltimore usually spent several days in the County confirming the youngsters in their respective churches.

Around the year 1862, during the Civil War, the Misses Dugan and Walley founded a school for young ladies located at the present Montgomery Avenue and North Washington Street, Rockville. The school was officially named St. Mary's Seminary in honor of the church. Both Father Chapelle and Father Mackin taught for a while at the school. Later, through arrangements made by Father Mackin, the school was moved to a frame building at Montgomery Avenue and Bridge Street where it was known as St. Mary's Institute. The course of studies included lessons in music and writing. Father Mackin also was instrumental in founding a similar school at St. John's. For over twenty years the Misses Dugan and Walley devoted themselves to the training of young ladies entrusted to their care.

Following the Civil War, the number of children in the Rockville congregation increased to such an extent that Father Mackin, in the early 1870's, built a large Sunday school room at the northwest corner of the church. Here, classes of religious instruction were held regularly on Sunday afternoons for many years.

During the Second World War, the number of St. Mary's parishioners began to grow steadily, and the need for a parish school was felt. Because of the war, construction of a school was necessarily delayed. During these years, however, the program of religious instruction for the young continued; and here, too, the number of students steadily increased.

By 1951, plans for a new school were completed and Father Hann contacted Mother Bernadette, R.S.M., then Provincial of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union, to request Sisters to staff St. Mary's School.

By the fall of 1951 the section of the school along Veirs Mill Road, with the convent constructed on the second floor above the classrooms, was completed at a cost of \$270,000.

Morris L. May was the architect, with Victor J. Beauchamp, Inc., in charge of construction. At that time the Most Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, visited the parish to lay the cornerstone and to bless the new school building.

In September of 1951, Sister M. Mercita, R.S.M., the first superior and principal of St. Mary's, opened the doors of the new parish school to one hundred and seventy-nine boys and girls. The new students were enrolled in grades one through seven.

St. Mary's School enrollment continued to increase so that in 1954 the auditorium and northwest wing of the present building were added. The convent was enlarged at the same time. In May of 1954, the parish was again honored by the visit of the Most Reverend Archbishop who, on this occasion, blessed the addition to St. Mary's School.

The new auditorium proved to be of special value to parish life since it provided an additional place for the growing congregation of St. Mary's to attend Mass.

These new additions were constructed at a cost of \$195,775, by the Whitty Construction Company. In 1957, under the direction of Charles H. Riddle, St. Mary's School was further enlarged by three classrooms, the clinic and the library.

Sister M. Mercita, R.S.M., was succeeded in 1957 by Sister M. Madonna, R.S.M., as superior and principal. In 1961, Sister M. Ambrose, R.S.M., was appointed superior and Sister Grace Marie, R.S.M., was appointed as principal of St. Mary's School.

The following table indicates the rapid growth of St. Mary's during the last twenty years. Of special interest are the figures in reference to children. The years cited are 1943, when the present pastor, Father Hann, was appointed to Rockville; 1951, when St. Mary's School was built; 1954, when the school was enlarged; and 1963, the sesquicentennial year.

The course of studies followed by St. Mary's School is that prescribed by the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Education and prepared by the curriculum committee of the Arch-



Archbishop O'Boyle blesses
St. Mary's School in 1951.



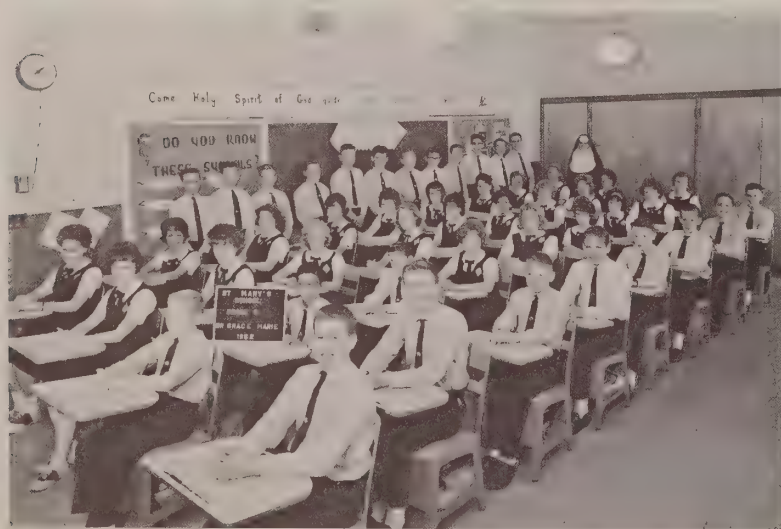
First graduation class of
St. Mary's School, 1953.



*St. Mary's Class of '62
as first graders in 1954.*



St. Mary's Class of '63.





ST. MARY'S PARISH

1943-1963

	1943	1951	1954	1963
Catholics	716	1,544	3,474	5,983
Families	335	560	989	1,463
Men	198	430	768	1,229
Women	271	523	922	1,387
Children	247	591	1,784	3,367
St. Mary's School	—	179	460	855
CCD School of Religion	38	48	184	866

diocese. Besides the core curricula of religion, language arts (reading, spelling, English, penmanship), social studies (geography and history), sciences (arithmetic, general science), art and music, St. Mary's also incorporates, with the approval and encouragement of the Archdiocesan Office of Education, an adaptation of the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) program, i.e., offering foreign languages—French and Spanish—to interested students as a related school activity; and modern

mathematics in grades seven and eight as preparation for secondary schools. Educational television is used as a supplement in geography, art, and science, and also as an aid in teaching the language program.

In June 1963, the sesquicentennial year of the founding of the parish, St. Mary's will bid farewell to the eighty-nine boys and girls of its eleventh graduating class. This new group will increase the total number of St. Mary's School graduates to an impressive total of 526.



Mother Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union

*(From St. Mary's School Dedication Program,
December 5, 1954)*

TOUCHED by the misery of the many Catholics of Ireland, Catherine McAuley relinquished the role of social leader to which her wealth entitled her in order to devote herself to the work of education, nursing, and Christ-like social service among the poor.

She built a home on the then fashionable Baggott Street in Dublin to shelter poor women until suitable employment could be secured for them, and with some friends who were attracted to her project opened a school there for

poor children. Gradually the little band assumed the manner of life of a religious community.

Deciding to establish an Order to give permanence to her work, Catherine McAuley, with two companions, made her novitiate at the Presentation Convent, pronouncing her vows December 12, 1831. From this establishment of the Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, the works of the Institute, which embraced the care of the poor, the sick and the

ignorant, grew and expanded. In ten years she opened fourteen houses and saw her rule approved and confirmed by the Holy See.

At the time of Mother McAuley's death, in 1841, more than one hundred Sisters of Mercy were laboring in these convents for the welfare of the poor. Their works were concerned chiefly with teaching in schools, the protection and instruction of women and girls, and the visitation of the sick poor.

Scarcely had the new religious institute spread among the poor in the crowded slums of the great cities of Ireland and England when from across the Atlantic was heard a similar appeal voicing the sad straits of the new Ireland overseas. Who can describe the social needs and suffering, the educational neglect, the painful humiliations of hundreds of thousands of Irish exiles mostly grown boys and girls, who in the forties and fifties of the last century survived their wild flight from famine and death that stalked unceasingly across their native land?

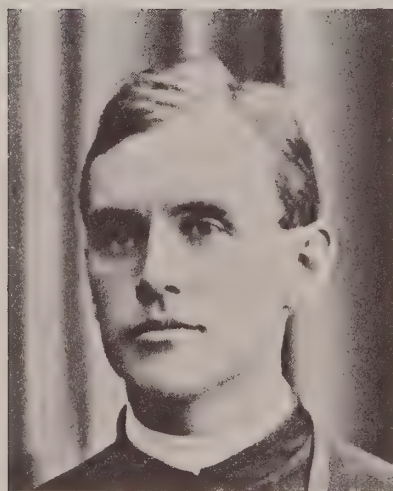
To relieve in some measure the pressing needs—religious and social—of these poor immigrants, Irish Sisters of Mercy crossed the Atlantic at the earnest solicitation of American bishops, and soon were founded their earliest homes in the United States: Pittsburgh in 1850, San Francisco in 1854 and Baltimore in 1855. They were destined soon to heed the call of the bishops of Australia, New Zealand, South America, Mexico, and the West Indies, while within a century the little band whose holy

resolve was approved by Pope Pius VIII in 1830, and confirmed by Pope Gregory XVI in 1841, has grown to the marvelous figure of more than 12,000 in the United States alone—one of the healthiest signs of the irrepressible vigor always latent in the Catholic Church.

In 1929, at the invitation of the Holy Father, a number of communities of Sisters of Mercy united to form the Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union in the United States of America with a general motherhouse at Bethesda, Maryland. The organization, which is divided into nine provinces, has a membership of more than 6,000 Sisters.

Looking back over these years of miscellaneous service to Holy Church one must remember that Catholic sisterhoods, and in particular the Sisters of Mercy, long performed many of the duties that our Catholic Social Service has now taken over. While this meant, it is true, a local and parochial devotion, it meant also for teaching and hospital Sisters a daily sacrifice of every spare hour to the discovery and relief of all the miseries of the parish, probably no fewer in the seventies and eighties than today.

Such an abundance of religious success that has been realized by the Sisters of Mercy is clearly to the honor of the Catholic Church, which alone inspires, blesses and rewards the marvels of self-devotion and self-effacement for the honor and glory of God through a Christ-like service to the least of His children.



Left to right: Father John L. Brunett, S.J., Father John C. Gloyd, Father William M. Clements, Father Thomas J. Delihant, S.J., Sister Lydia Maria, Sister M. Martha, R.S.M.



6

Vocations

Priests

FOR any parish a vocation to the priesthood or to the religious life is a source of pride and of gratification. During the course of her one hundred and fifty year history, St. Mary's Church has seen many of her young parishioners dedicate themselves in a special way to the service of God and of His Church. The following brief sketches include those who have been known to enter the priesthood and religious life as well as others who are in the preparatory stages.

Reverend John C. Gloyd

Father John Gloyd was born in Montgomery County October 21, 1831. He was baptized by Father Peter De Vos, who as pastor at Rockville at that time, was entrusted with the spiritual care of the Catholics of the entire County. Father Gloyd was one of the first students to enter the new St. Charles College at Ellicott Mills (City), the preparatory seminary conducted by the Sulpician Fathers. On the day he entered he was driven by horse and buggy to St. Charles by Lemuel Clements, one of the founders of St. Mary's Church.

Upon completion of his course of studies at St. Charles, Father Gloyd was admitted to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. One of his fellow students during his theology course was James Gibbons the future Cardinal of Balti-



The Chapel at Cathedral Latin School. Over one hundred years ago a young parishioner of St. Mary's was among the first students to enter St. Charles College, the preparatory seminary conducted by the Sulpician Fathers at Catonsville. Ordained in 1858, Father John C. Gloyd served in the priesthood for over forty years.

In the fall of 1961 three young parishioners of the same St. Mary's were among the first students to enter Cathedral Latin School, the preparatory seminary conducted by the Archdiocese of Washington.



more. The expenses of his seminary course were met by Mrs. Ellen Maria Maher, sister of Ann Jane Clopper of The Woodlands and foundress of the Church of St. Rose at Clopper.

Father Gloyd was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1858, by Archbishop Francis Kenrick. A member of his ordination class was Father Edmund Didier, the twelfth pastor of St. Mary's. His first assignment was to St. Ignatius Church, Hickory, in Hartford County, Maryland. After a year, he was transferred to St. Peter's Church at Hancock. In 1862, Father Gloyd left Hancock for Taneytown, Maryland, where he served as pastor at St. Joseph's Church. At that time he also cared for the mission at Westminster. Later he moved to Westminster where he built St. John's Church. He remained there for twenty-seven years. During this time the church at Taneytown became the mission of Westminster.

In November of 1889, Father Gloyd was appointed by Cardinal Gibbons as pastor of St.

Stephen's Church, Washington. Five years later he was transferred as pastor to St. Patrick's Church in the same city, where he served with distinction for the next seven years. At the time of this appointment St. Patrick's Church was one of the irremovable rectorships. By regulations of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore pastors could be assigned to churches, such as St. Patrick's, only after a competitive examination. However, the Council provided that the Archbishop of Baltimore could dispense with the examination on the recommendation of the board of clerical examiners. This was the case in Father Gloyd's appointment to St. Patrick's.

In 1897 while pastor of St. Patrick's Father Gloyd's health began to fail. He died a few years later on March 27, 1901. With him at his death was his nephew, Father William Clements. Cardinal Gibbons presided at the Requiem for Father Gloyd at St. Patrick's, and the eulogy was preached by Bishop Curtis of Delaware. Over one hundred members of the

clergy were in attendance. Internment followed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in the priests' section where many of the former pastors of St. Mary's Church have been buried.

Reverend William M. Clements

Father William M. Clements was born in Montgomery County, near Clopper, November 26, 1870. He was a nephew of Father John C. Gloyd, also a native of Montgomery County, and pastor at that time of St. John's Church at Westminster. He received his early education at St. John's School, Westminster, and with the encouragement of his uncle he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Charles College in Ellicott City. Later he took his philosophy courses at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and his theological studies at the Seminary of Saint Sulpice in Paris. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1896 by Cardinal Richard, the Archbishop of Paris.

Father Clements served briefly at St. John the Evangelist Church in Baltimore and was then appointed as assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church in the same city. On October 17, 1897, Cardinal Gibbons appointed him as pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Bradshaw, Maryland. On March 8, 1909, Father Clements was assigned as pastor of St. Katherine of Sienna Church, Baltimore, where he built the present church considered to be one of the most beautiful in the city. He remained there for the rest of his life and during his pastorate was noted for his kindness and consideration for the poor.

Father Clements died suddenly of a heart attack at St. Katherine's rectory on November 6, 1936. Archbishop Michael J. Curley of Baltimore presided at his Requiem at St. Katherine's, with Father Louis O'Donovan, pastor of St. Martin's, Baltimore, as celebrant. Father Clements was buried at Old St. Mary's Cemetery in Rockville where an imposing monument marks the final resting place of the only priest ever buried there.

Reverend Thomas J. Delihant, S.J.

Father Thomas J. Delihant, S.J., was born in Chicago May 18, 1878. His parents were resi-

dents of Montgomery County where his mother, a descendant of the Key and Scott families, had been born.

Father Delihant entered the Society of Jesus at Frederick, Maryland, August 14, 1897. He pursued his philosophical studies at the College of the Sacred Heart, Woodstock, Maryland, from 1900 to 1903. He then taught for three years at Jesuit schools in Baltimore, Worcester and Philadelphia. He returned to Woodstock for his theological studies in 1908 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1912.

Following his ordination he was assigned to Loyola College in Baltimore. Later he was appointed to the Jesuit mission band and spent several years in the work of conducting missions and retreats. During the First World War he served as a chaplain overseas. At the close of the war he resumed his missionary and pastoral work.

Father Delihant died on February 28, 1949, at Reading, Pennsylvania.

Reverend John L. Brunett, S.J.

Father John L. Brunett, S.J., was born in Rockville, January 15, 1923, the son of Lydia Almoney Brunett and James Paul Brunett. He received his early education at the Rockville Elementary School and was graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School in 1941. He entered the Society of Jesus at the St. Isaac Jogues Novitiate at Wernersville, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1942.

Father Brunett made his philosophical studies from 1946-1949 at Woodstock College and then taught for three years at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. He returned to Woodstock for his theological studies in 1952 and was ordained to the priesthood in June of 1955.

After his year of tertianship at Auriesville, New York, he was appointed as administrative vice president and student counselor at Loyola High School in Baltimore where he served until 1961. Father Brunett then went to Woodstock College where he is presently serving as administrative vice president.



Mother Elizabeth Shearman, R.S.C.J.



Left to right: Sister Mary Joan, R.S.M., Brother Gilbert Glenn, F.S.C., Sister Mary Blaise, children of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Henderson.

Religious

The first known vocation to the sisterhood in the history of St. Mary's parish is that of Rose Gloyd, the sister of Father Gloyd. Born in Gaithersburg on November 14, 1848, Rose Gloyd entered the Community of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul at Emmitsburg on March 23, 1868. She died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, June 4, 1891.

In September of 1923, Martha Gardiner, daughter of Marie and Louis Gardiner (one of the old Montgomery County families), entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union. Her name in religious life is Sister M. Martha, R.S.M. A former teacher at St. Mary's School in Rockville, Sister now teaches at St. Bernard's School in Baltimore.

In 1949, Elizabeth Griffith Shearman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Shearman, entered the Religious of the Sacred Heart. A former student at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, now located at Stone Ridge, Mother Elizabeth Shearman, R.S.C.J., is now stationed at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida.

Miss Maria Rosa Graciela Diaz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Narciso Diaz, was born in Washington, D.C., May 12, 1942. On July 2, 1959, at the age of seventeen, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Her name in religious life is Sister Lydia Maria and she is presently teaching

the third grade at Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Winchester, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Henderson have three children who are in religious life. Their oldest child, Betty Henderson, born January 6, 1938, entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union in September of 1955. Sister Mary Joan, R.S.M., now teaches the second grade at St. Francis De Sales School, Salisbury, Maryland.

Ramona Henderson, born September 9, 1943, entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Cornwell Heights, Pennsylvania, in September, 1961. Her name in religious life is Sister Mary Blaise.

Thomas Henderson was born November 2, 1940 and entered the novitiate of the Christian Brothers in June of 1958. As Brother Gilbert Glenn, F.S.C., he will receive his master's degree from LaSalle College in Philadelphia in June of 1963.

Seminarians

Among the seminarians is a young St. Mary's parishioner who is studying for the priesthood in the Society of the Divine Word.

Three young men are now completing their first year in the Cathedral Latin School, the preparatory seminary of the Archdiocese, which opened in the fall of 1962 to receive high school boys who are interested in the priesthood. At the present time two St. Mary's boys have applied for admission in the fall of 1963.

Organizations of the Past

THE Sanctuary Society was established by Father James Mackin, pastor at St. Mary's from 1870 to 1877. At the time of its founding Father Mackin had completed the extensive renovation of the church. This included the remodeling of the sanctuary and the installation of a new altar. The ladies of the parish who belonged to the Sanctuary Society devoted their services to the care of the altar and sanctuary and looked after the vestments and altar linens as well. Prior to Father Mackin's time the same services had been rendered by the women of the parish, though not as an organized society.

Even when organized the Sanctuary Society had neither officers nor regularly scheduled meetings. The name was simply used in recognition of the small group of ladies who provided this particular service to their parish church.

The work of the society continued after Father Mackin's departure from St. Mary's. Among St. Mary's parishioners today there are still some, who in the past, gave much of their time and talent to this devoted work. The traditional services formerly rendered by the Sanctuary Society are continued today by the members of the Eucharistic Committee of the Blessed Virgin's Sodality.

The Living Rosary was inaugurated in the parish by Father Mackin sometime in the early 1870's. Its purpose was to foster devotion to the Mother of God by the daily recitation of the rosary. The Living Rosary was also inaugurated in the mission congregations and was one of the first pious organizations to be formed in the County. Usually the members of the Living Rosary also belonged to the League of the Sacred Heart, so that where the one devotion was found the other was also observed.

The League of the Sacred Heart was one of the first of its kind to be organized in the Catholic congregations of the County. Father Thomas D. Williams, pastor of St. Mary's from 1901 to 1904, formerly established the League at St. Mary's.

The purpose of the League was to promote the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus among the members of the parish. The members recited regularly special prayers and met once each month. Small yearly dues were contributed by the members to meet the expenses of the prayer leaflets and other spiritual literature provided by the central office of the League in New York City. A Mass was offered by the pastor once a month for the intentions of the members of the League of the Sacred Heart.

DURING the pastorate of Father Philip McGuire, from 1904 to 1912, the Aid Society was organized by the ladies of the parish. The objective of this organization was to sponsor fund-raising events to assist the pastor in the

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Association

OF

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND.

CONSTITUTION.

Article I. The name of this association shall be St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Association.

Article II. The object of this association shall be to maintain in reverent and suitable condition the cemeteries attached to St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Article III. This association shall be in charge of a Board of Lady Managers. The business shall be conducted by the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer. These shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Article IV. The payment of one (\$1.00) annually constitutes a membership.

Article V. There shall be an annual meeting of officers on the first Sunday in October and a monthly meeting of the association on the first Sunday of each month at St. Mary's Church.

Article VI. The date of annual election of officers shall be

the treasurer, who will receipt for the same, and entitles the lot owner to have his lot properly cared for according to the judgment of the executive committee.

Article VII. Each member of the association not in arrears for dues shall be entitled to a vote.

Article VIII. In order to be in touch with all sections of the parish, an Advisory Board, consisting of three ladies and three gentlemen, shall be appointed by the Board of Lady Managers. The Board of Lady Managers and the officers shall be elected by a majority of the members present; candidates to be nominated by a committee appointed by the President; all officers to be selected from the Board of Lady Managers.

Article IX. All funds of the association shall be submitted to the discretion of the board, subject to the approval of a majority of the association; said majority to consist of the members present when the business is under discussion.

Article X. A Committee on Improvements

shall also act as agent for the association on matters subject to its interest and approval.

Article XIV. All workmen employed in the construction of vaults, the erection of monuments, or other works within the cemetery, must be subject to the control and direction of the executive committee, and any such workmen failing or refusing to conform to this by-law shall not be permitted to complete the work he may be engaged on, but shall be expelled and shall not be permitted to work within the cemetery thereafter.

Article XV. No enclosures to lots allowed except coping, unless in the case of those already on the grounds.

Article XVI. A suitable spot shall be appropriated for single interments, either for strangers or others. Interments in this section shall be made in continuous and successive rows, and no permit will be granted for any specific location

Copy of cemetery charter

financial administration of the parish. The program of activity included lawn festivals and parish suppers that were held regularly in the early summer and fall of the year. Among the parish contributions of the Aid Society is the present set of the Stations of the Cross installed in St. Mary's Church during the pastorate of Father Coolahan. The Aid Society was discontinued in the 1930's.

THE St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Association was organized officially on Sunday, November 4, 1906. With the approval of the pastor, Father Philip McGuire, a group of parish ladies met to form an organization devoted to the administration and care of the two church cemeteries. Father McGuire had enlarged the new St. Mary's Cemetery on Norbeck Road with the purchase of seven additional acres, an increase that emphasized the need for a more systematic and regular program of cemetery maintenance.

At the charter meeting of the Cemetery Association in 1906, the following officers were elected: Mrs. Lee Offutt, president; Mrs. John E. West, vice president; Miss Anna M. Maddox, secretary; Miss Rose Wagner, assistant secretary; and Mrs. Agnes J. Matlack, treasurer. The meeting enlisted the help of thirty-three members including the officers, and it was agreed that each would pay one dollar a year in dues. A constitution and set of bylaws were adopted; and an eight-member board, including the officers, was set up.

Through parish benefits, such as oyster roasts, the members of the Cemetery Association provided the means of improving the appearances

of both cemeteries. Old graves received careful attention and monuments were repaired. Shrubbery was planted, new walks were laid out and the cemetery fences were reinforced and beautified.

In addition to the physical upkeep of the cemeteries the society also supervised the administration of cemetery finances. This included the selling of lots and the collection of annual fees for the upkeep of the graves.

The St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Association functioned for nineteen years and during that time made valuable contributions to the more efficient administration and upkeep of the two cemeteries. The association made possible the erection of the present arch over the entrance to the new St. Mary's Cemetery.

During its history there were five presidents: Mrs. Lee Offutt, Mrs. Lawrence Flack, Mrs. John E. West, Mrs. Wallace E. Ricketts and Mrs. Elbert Claggett.

THE forerunner of the St. Peter's Key Club of St. Peter's Parish, Olney, was a Sewing Circle. The ladies who belonged to this group met regularly to furnish and care for the tabernacle veils, altar linens and other articles used in divine worship. Early in the 1940's, at the suggestion of Father Hann, the Sewing Circle changed its name, first to the St. Peter's Circle, and later, to the St. Peter's Key Club. This was done in honor of the Patron of the Church, St. Peter, and his title as Keeper of the Keys. The objectives of the club remained the same. The members met regularly, elected their officers annually and sponsored social events such as card parties. Today the club still renders its traditional services to the parish church at Olney.

8

Organizations of the Present

THE Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was formerly established at St. Mary's in 1952. The purpose of this organization is the teaching of Christian doctrine in the parish to all age levels. A parish CCD council meets regularly once a month to plan and coordinate the CCD program. This program includes the School of Religion for the children of the parish, inquiry classes on the teachings of the faith and discussion clubs. The number of students in the CCD School of Religion for the school year of 1962-1963 is eight hundred and sixty-six. Each year the Archbishop O'Boyle CCD Medal is presented to an outstanding high school senior. A plaque in St. Mary's School indicates the names of the annual recipients.

THE purpose of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament is to promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, particularly among the men of the parish. The Confraternity was preceded by the Nocturnal Adoration Society which was established in 1950. In 1960, St. Mary's Church was designated as the center for the monthly Lord's Hour of Adoration and of Reparation for the parishes of St. Mary's, Rockville, St. Jude's, Rockville, St. Peter's Olney, and Our Lady of Mercy, Bethesda. The Holy Hour is conducted on the Thursday before the First Friday at 9:30 p.m. The services include special prayers, a short sermon and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE history of St. Mary's Choir goes back for many years. In the early days the small church choir provided music when required but the Sung (High) Mass was offered only on special occasions. It was not until 1954 that the schedule of a Sung Mass each Sunday went into effect. The first recorded choir director was Miss Lavenia Wagner who served from 1916 until 1922. She was succeeded by Mrs. Howard M. Blandy who directed the choir until the spring of 1941, when the present director, Mrs. Helen Kingdon, was appointed. St. Mary's Choir at the present time numbers twenty members.

THE Legion of Mary was established at St. Mary's in January of 1959 under the title of "Queen Assumed into Heaven." Its purpose is to promote the sanctification of its members through Catholic action with particular emphasis on acts of charity. The Legion meets each week and its current program includes personal visits by members to the homes of new parishioners. St. Mary's Legion of Mary currently numbers one hundred and forty-seven.

THE St. Vincent de Paul Society was established by the present pastor, Father Hann, in 1948. Its purpose is the sanctification of its members through devotion to the spiritual and temporal needs of the poor. The society meets every two weeks and its members visit regularly those homes of the parish wherein there is indication of need. The society at St. Mary's numbers ten at the present time.

THE Home and School Association of St. Mary's was founded in 1960. Its purpose is to promote better understanding between the parents and faculty through discussions on the program and activities of St. Mary's School. The association meets once every two months and the program usually includes a guest speaker. The parents of all the school children

are invited to these meetings. The officers of the association serve for a term of one year.

THE purpose of the Cana Clubs of St. Mary's Parish is to foster the spiritual life of their members through discussion of topics especially pertinent to Christian families. The three Cana Clubs of St. Mary's are those of St. Mary, St. Joseph and St. Gerard. The Cana Clubs meet regularly and are associated with the Family Life Movement of the Archdiocese of Washington.

THE Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Parish was formally established by Father O'Hara in 1930. At the invitation of the pastor, Bishop McNamara visited Rockville at the time for the solemn inauguration of the organization. The purpose of the Holy Name Society is the sanctification of its members through the frequent reception of the sacraments and the promotion of reverence and devotion for the Holy Name. The officers and members attend the monthly Communion Mass on the second Sunday of each month. The society meets on the Monday night following the second Sunday. Its program contributes to parish life by the sponsoring of parish picnics, parish dances and the annual Father and Son Communion Breakfast held in March. For several years a committee of the society sponsored a variety show that provided partial high school scholarships to boys of the parish. The current Holy Name membership is over three hundred.

St. Mary's Parish is represented by two delegates to the Montgomery County Section of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men. The ACCM is not yet organized on the parish level. The Holy Name Society is an official member of the Archdiocesan Holy Name Union.

THE Men's Club of St. Mary's was organized on February 7, 1960. A general meeting in St. Mary's Auditorium was attended by the

priests of the parish and by three hundred and sixty men. The purpose of the meeting was to devise a program whereby all fund raising events would be discontinued in favor of a financial plan whereby each family would agree to contribute a percentage of their income toward the liquidation of the parish debt. The slogan "Debt Free in '63" was adopted to designate the goal of the club. The Men's Club is directed by four officers elected annually from a board of twenty-four directors, all of whom meet once every two months. Membership in the club is open to all men of the parish.

As long as can be remembered the men of the parish have rendered their services as ushers. However, in 1954, when the auditorium was completed, a regular schedule of Sunday Masses was begun there. The need was then felt for an organized society that would continue to render to parishioners the courteous and efficient service of the past. The present Ushers' Society was then founded. There are now thirty-five men who render their services at church services including the nine Masses on Sunday.

THE Montgomery Council No. 2323 of the Knights of Columbus had its origin at St. Martin's Parish, Gaithersburg. It was organized there in 1921 through the efforts of the pastor, Father John S. Cuddy. During the more than forty years of its history the Council has rendered service to the parishes of the area, including St. Mary's where the Knights assisted in the renovation of the meeting room in the parish hall. During the pastorate of Father Coady the Knights began to meet regularly at St. Mary's where their meetings are still held. On November 18, 1961, the Montgomery Council No. 2323 celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a dinner dance at the Rockville Civic Center.

THE Blessed Virgin's Sodality was founded in 1943 by Father Hann. Its official title is the Sodality of Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The purpose of the Sodality is to promote the sanctification of its members through devotion to the Mother of God and by service to the Church. The organizational plan of the Sodality includes a central council composed of the prefect, officers and committee heads. The membership is divided into thirty-two bands headed by a consultor. Included among the committees are the Ladies of Charity. Among the events sponsored by the Sodality during the year is the annual Mother and Daughter Communion Breakfast. The officers and members attend the Communion Mass as a group on the first Sunday of the month, and have their general meetings on the last Tuesday of each month. The present Sodality membership is five hundred.

St. Mary's Parish is represented by one delegate to the Montgomery County Section of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. The ACCW is not yet organized on the parish level. The Sodality is an official member of the Archdiocesan Sodality Union.

THE St. Mary's Guild had its origin as the former Circle Club. The St. Mary's Circle Club had been organized to raise funds for the building of St. Mary's School. Upon completion of the school the organization devoted itself to the interests of the Sisters and the children by providing funds for the purchasing of necessary items for the school program. The St. Mary's Circle followed the committee plan in sponsoring cake sales, the sale of religious cards, fashion shows and card parties. The members also sponsored the former First Friday Breakfasts for the school children. In December of 1953 the Circle Club was reorganized and designated officially as The St. Mary's Guild. Its purpose remains substantially the same. It continues to promote the social life of the parish and to provide funds for school projects and purchases. The approximately 150 members are divided into fifteen groups. The guild conducts quar-

terly meetings for the leaders while the groups meet monthly.

ST. MARY'S PARISH of Rockville sponsors bowling leagues for both the ladies and men. The duck pin leagues were inaugurated in 1955 and the ten pin leagues in 1958. The purpose in forming the leagues was to contribute to the recreational and social life of the parish. The teams in the league bowl one night a week from the fall until the summer. The annual league banquets are the occasions for presenting awards both to teams and to individual bowlers. The men's awards are presented annually at the Communion Mass and Dinner of the Montgomery Section of the Holy Name Society.

THE official Catholic Youth Organization of St. Mary's was founded in 1953 with the formation of a youth committee to provide and to supervise athletic and social activities for the boys and girls of the parish. The same year the committee was expanded to include five men and five women. This group then served as a board of directors to coordinate all youth activities of the parish. This committee continued to develop the youth program with special emphasis on the athletic and social programs for boys and girls of high school age. By May of 1954 the St. Mary's Catholic Youth Organization was completely organized in conformity with the official Archdiocesan CYO program.

The principal aims and ideals of the Catholic Youth Organization are to further the sanctification of its members, to train leaders for the Church of tomorrow, to provide opportunities for Catholic boys and girls to meet one another and to develop their God-given talents and abilities.

The CYO program is a complement to, not a substitute for, the vital roles of the home and school in religious instruction, character formation and moral training. Through spiritual, cultural, social and athletic activities the parish CYO joins the home and school in guiding

youth during the years from childhood through adolescence on to womanhood and manhood.

The St. Mary's CYO program includes an extensive athletic program for boys and girls of all age levels; and provides high school boys the opportunity to participate in the Rockville Church League. The Church League is an association of basketball teams from the various churches of the Rockville area. The parish CYO program also includes the CYO Marian Club, the St. Mary's CYO Young Adult Club and the scout movement.

ORGANIZED in December of 1955, the Marian Club is the official organization for the boys and girls of the parish of high school age. It follows the Archdiocesan plan of spiritual, social, cultural and athletic activities for its members and is a member of the Archdiocesan Council of Youth Clubs. The club meets regularly once a month, elects its officers annually and plans its own program. Its members are represented on the parish athletic teams and the club conducts a variety of social activities including dances, wiener roasts and bowling; also included are skating and swimming parties. Cultural activities include one act plays and participation in the cultural program of the Archdiocesan CYO program. The membership of the club at the present time is thirty-five.

THE St. Mary's CYO Young Adult Club was formed in February of 1962. Its purpose is to provide spiritual, social, athletic and cultural activities for its members. The program is planned for those who are eighteen years of age or older, or who have completed their high school courses. The club places particular emphasis on providing Catholic young men and women of similar interests and ideals the opportunity to meet one another under the aegis of the parish. The St. Mary's CYO Young Adult Club at the present time enjoys a membership of forty-five and is a member of the Archdiocesan Council of Young Adult Clubs.



K. of C. group with Fr. Coolahan about 1927.

THE youth program of St. Mary's embraces an extensive scout movement that includes the girl scouts and brownies and the boy scouts and cub scouts. The scout program is that of the official national organization with additional religious activities under the direction of the Archdiocesan Scout Office. These activities are interspersed throughout the year and include pilgrimages to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, formal investiture ceremonies and the observance of Scout Sunday. The scouts are also encouraged to pursue the official Catholic scout awards of the "Ad Deum per Mariam" Award for girl scouts, the "Ad Altare Dei" Award for boy scouts and the "Parvuli Dei" Award for cub scouts.

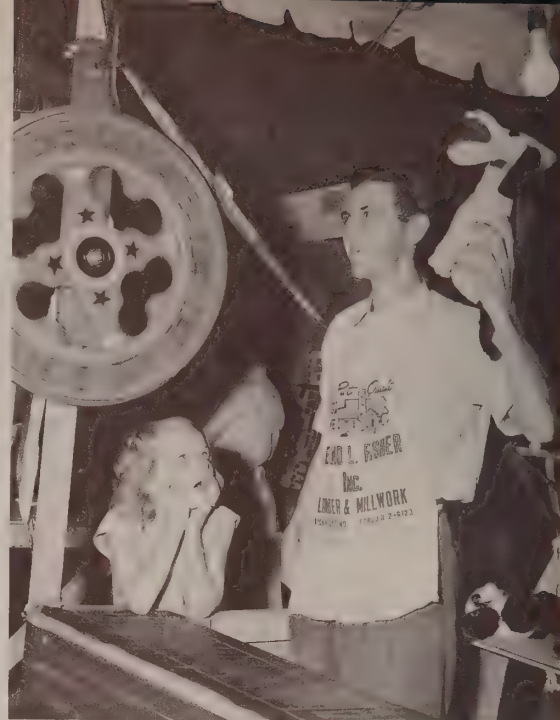
THE Junior Legion of Mary is composed of boys and girls of high school age who meet regularly under the auspices of the adult organization. The purpose of the Junior Legion is to acquaint the young members with the basic aims and ideals of the Legion of Mary and to train them for positions of leadership in the years ahead. The members participate in the usual prayers of the organization and render service to the parish in various capacities. The boys and girls of the Junior Legion at St. Mary's currently include in their program the maintenance of the parish library. The junior organization at the present time numbers twelve.

THE Junior Sodality is made up of girls of high school age and is under the guidance

of the adult organization. The basic aim of the Junior Sodality is to train the members in the ideals and purpose of the Sodality and to provide opportunities of performing services to the Church and acts of charity commensurate with the age group. The Junior Sodality meets regularly once a month and elects its own officers once a year. The current membership is seventy.

THE Altar Boy Society may well be considered as the oldest youth organization in the parish, since boys of St. Mary's have always served Mass in the parish church. However, with the rapid growth of the parish in recent years, an organized society was needed and was formed in the early 1950's. Classes are held each year to teach the boys the Latin responses and ceremonies of the Church. At its annual Father and Son Communion Breakfast, the Holy Name Society presents Altar Boy Plaques to the boys who have distinguished themselves in this service to the Church.

The spiritual activities of St. Mary's youth program are provided for all the boys and girls and for all the young men and women of the parish. These include the Youth Communion Sunday on the third Sunday of each month, the annual Holy Hour for Youth conducted on the Feast of Christ the King at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the annual Communion Crusade. The latter is intended to encourage the youth to attend daily Mass and Communion during the week of the parish Forty Hours Devotion.



ABOVE: Marian Club fun at the Canteen; ABOVE RIGHT: scene at St. Mary's fair; RIGHT: St. Mary's school picnic; BELOW: Marian Club dance at the Canteen; and BELOW RIGHT: the annual Spring Charge of the Rake Brigade.





ABOVE: St. Mary's annual picnic; TOP RIGHT: C.Y.O.
 baseball team; CENTER LEFT TO RIGHT: girls' C.Y.O.
 baseball team and boys' football team; BELOW LEFT
 TO RIGHT: girls' C.Y.O. basketball team and boys'
 C.Y.O. basketball team.



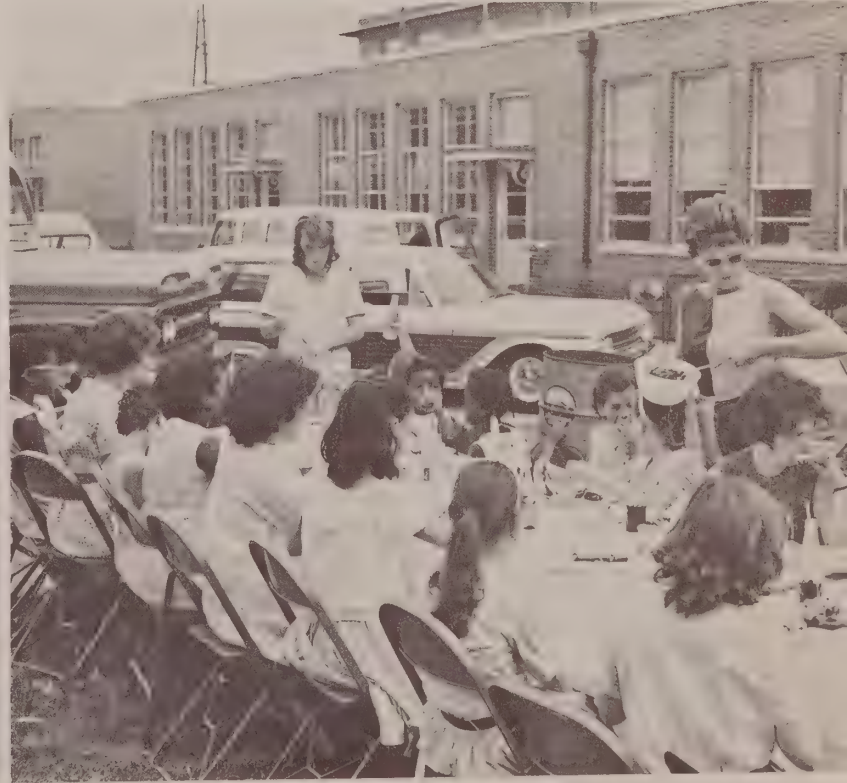


RIGHT: *St. Mary's Cub Scouts.*
 BELOW: *St. Mary's Girl Scouts receiving Awards*





Top, left to right: Tom Hudson, president of CYO Young Adult Club; first presentation of Holy Name Altar Boy Awards at annual Father and Son Communion Breakfast in 1961. Below, left to right: Queen of annual May Procession. The Junior Sodality serves the girls of St. Vincent's home.



Dates of Establishment of Parishes in Montgomery County

May, 1963

<i>Date</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Location</i>
1774	St. John the Evangelist	Silver Spring
1813	St. Mary's	Rockville
1815	St. Mary's	Barnesville
1835	St. Rose's (Former Mission of St. Mary's, Rockville, 1835-1869; Mission of St. Mary's, Barnesville, 1869-1920; Mission of St. Martin's, Gaithersburg, 1920-present)	Clopper
1860	St. Peter's (Mission of St. Mary's, Rockville, 1860-1898, then transferred to Olney)	Mt. Zion
1890	St. Gabriel's (Mission of St. Ann's, D.C., 1890-1910; Mission of St. Mary's, Rockville, 1910-1926, then discontinued)	Great Falls
1898	St. Peter's (Former Mission of St. Mary's, Rockville, 1898-1953; established as Parish in 1953)	Olney
1906	Little Flower (Former Mission of Our Lady of Victory, D.C.; established as Parish in 1948)	Massachusetts Ave., Extended
1911	Holy Redeemer (Former Mission of St. John the Evangelist; established as Parish in 1948)	Kensington
1920	St. Martin's	Gaithersburg
1926	Our Lady of Lourdes	Bethesda
1930	St. Michael the Archangel	Silver Spring
1944	St. Bernadette's (Former Mission of St. John the Evangelist; established as Parish in 1948)	Silver Spring
1950	St. Jane Frances de Chantal	Bethesda
1951	St. Camillus	Silver Spring
1951	St. Catherine Labouré	Wheaton
1956	St. Jude's	Rockville
1957	St. Paul's	Damascus
1959	St. Andrew the Apostle	Silver Spring
1959	Our Lady of Mercy	Potomac
1960	St. Bartholomew's	Bethesda
1960	Holy Cross	Garrett Park
1960	St. John the Baptist	Silver Spring
1961	Christ the King	Silver Spring

Clergy of Saint Mary's, Rockville

(Chronological)

<i>Pastors and Assistants</i>	<i>Terms</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Pastors and Assistants</i>	<i>Terms</i>	<i>Died</i>
1. Redmond, S.J., James	1813-1818	Dec. 21, 1822	18. Connelly, James M.	1885-1889	June 12, 1918
2. Carroll, Michael F. X.	1818-1819	Date Unknown	*Riordan, Michael J.	1888-1889	May 18, 1943
3. De Vos, Peter J.	1819-1835	Mar. 14, 1844	19. Rosensteel, Charles O.	1889-1898	June 13, 1940
4. Piot, Bertrand S.	1835-1839	May 22, 1882	20. Cunnane, Joseph A.	1898-1900	Dec. 13, 1939
*Sacchi, S.J., Philip A.	1839-1840	Apr. 16, 1850	21. Hurlbut, Sidney S.	1900-1900	June 9, 1920
5. Galligher, Michael P.	1840-1846	June 1, 1869	22. Gaynor, John T.	1900-1901	Apr. 4, 1933
6. Foley, Thomas P.	1846-1847	Feb. 19, 1879	23. Williams, Thomas D.	1901-1904	Jan. 8, 1949
7. King, S.J., Francis X.	1847-1847	July 29, 1847	24. McGuire, Philip B.	1904-1912	Oct. 16, 1939
8. Maguire, Joseph J.	1847-1850	Sept. 18, 1852	25. Coolahan, John T.	1912-1929	May 21, 1932
9. McManus, Bernard J.	1850-1851	Feb. 28, 1888	26. O'Hara, Charles R.	1929-1936	Oct. 13, 1946
10. Boyle, Francis E.	1851-1853	Mar. 13, 1882	27. Coady, John J.	1936-1941	
11. Dougherty, John J.	1853-1862	Apr. 14, 1885	28. McKew, Thomas J.	1941-1943	Oct. 25, 1957
12. Didier, Edmund	1862-1865	May 18, 1903	29. Hann, J. Gilbert	1943 to date	
13. Chapelle, Placide L.	1865-1870	Aug. 9, 1905	*Thorning, Joseph F.	1944-1946	
*Spruyt, Henry	1867-1869	Aug. 7, 1879	*Echle, J. Gregory	1946-1952	
*O'Sullivan, Jeremiah	1868-1870	Aug. 10, 1896	*Kane, Thomas A.	1952-1953	
*Starr, William E.	1869-1870	Oct. 16, 1921	*Lauriola, Francis J.	1953-1956	
14. Mackin, James F.	1870-1877	Apr. 19, 1925	*Boyle, Peter C.	1954-1958	
*Schmitt, Casper	1874-1874	1924	*Perkinson, Martin F.	1956-1960	
15. Cunningham, James A.	1877-1881	Nov. 17, 1906	*Reddy, James J.	1958 to date	
16. Gallen, Joseph S.	1881-1883	July 19, 1910	*Hemming, John W.	1959 to date	
17. Rabbia, Sebastian	1883-1885	Mar. 27, 1911	*McMain, Robert O.	1960 to date	

(Alphabetical)

<i>Pastors and Assistants</i>	<i>Terms</i>	<i>Pastors and Assistants</i>	<i>Terms</i>
Boyle, Francis E.	1851-1853	*Lauriola, Francis J.	1953-1956
*Boyle, Peter C.	1954-1958	McGuire, Philip B.	1904-1912
Carroll, Michael F. X.	1818-1819	McKew, Thomas J.	1941-1943
Chapelle, Placide L.	1865-1870	*McMain, Robert O.	1960 to date
Coady, John J.	1936-1941	McManus, Bernard J.	1850-1851
Connelly, James M.	1885-1889	Mackin, James F.	1870-1877
Coolahan, John T.	1912-1929	Maguire, Joseph J.	1847-1850
Cunnane, Joseph A.	1898-1900	O'Hara, Charles R.	1929-1936
Cunningham, James A.	1877-1881	*O'Sullivan, Jeremiah	1868-1870
De Vos, Peter J.	1819-1835	*Perkinson, Martin F.	1956-1960
Didier, Edmund	1862-1865	Piot, Bertrand S.	1835-1839
Dougherty, John J.	1853-1862	Rabbia, Sebastian	1883-1885
*Echle, J. Gregory	1946-1952	*Reddy, James J.	1958 to date
Foley, Thomas P.	1846-1847	Redmond, S.J., James	1813-1818
Gallen, Joseph S.	1881-1883	*Riordan, Michael J.	1888-1889
Galligher, Michael P.	1840-1846	Rosensteel, Charles O.	1889-1898
Gaynor, John T.	1900-1901	*Sacchi, S.J., Philip A.	1839-1840
Hann, J. Gilbert	1943 to date	*Schmitt, Casper	1874-1874
*Hemming, John W.	1959 to date	*Spruyt, Henry	1867-1869
Hurlbut, Sidney S.	1900-1900	*Starr, William E.	1869-1870
*Kane, Thomas A.	1952-1953	*Thorning, Joseph F.	1944-1946
King, S.J., Francis X.	1847-1847	Williams, Thomas D.	1901-1904

* Denotes Assistants

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Patrons

Reverend J. Gilbert Hann
 Right Reverend John J. Coady
 Reverend John F. Bellwoar, S.J.
 Reverend Peter C. Boyle
 Reverend John L. Brunett, S.J.
 Reverend J. Gregory Echle
 Reverend John W. Hemming
 Reverend Thomas A. Kane
 Reverend Francis J. Lauriola
 Reverend Robert O. McMain
 Reverend Martin F. Perkinson
 Reverend James Reddy
 Reverend Joseph F. Thorning
 The Religious Sisters of Mercy of the
 Union in the United States of America
 The St. Mary School
 The Confraternity of the Blessed Sac-
 rament
 The Confraternity of Christian Doc-
 trine
 The St. Mary Choir
 The Legion of Mary
 The St. Vincent de Paul Society
 The Home and School Association
 The St. Mary Cana Clubs
 The Holy Name Society
 The Men's Club
 The Ushers' Society
 The Montgomery Council No. 2323,
 Knights of Columbus
 The Sodality of Our Lady of the Im-
 maculate Heart of Mary
 The St. Mary Guild
 The St. Mary Ladies Bowling Leagues
 The St. Mary Men's Bowling Leagues
 The Catholic Youth Organization
 The Altar Boy Society
 The Junior Legion of Mary
 The Junior Sodality
 The Marian Club
 The Young Adult Club
 The Girl Scouts and Brownies
 The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts
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 Chas. W. & Lillian M. Adams
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 Mrs. Mary Jennie Barnes
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Bean
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 Mr. & Mrs. John Branthover
 Mr. & Mrs. Crescent J. Bride
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Brosius
 Adrian L. Brunett
 Mr. & Mrs. D. A. Bucci
 Mr. & Mrs. Casey A. Bula
 Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Burke
 Mr. & Mrs. David L. Cahoon
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Cassidy
 Mr. & Mrs. John P. Cavanaugh
 Col. & Mrs. J. M. Chambers
 Mrs. Cecil T. Cissel
 R. O. Clay
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 Mr. & Mrs. John W. Crowley
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris N. Cuddeback
 Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Curtin
 Mr. & Mrs. John B. Cuskelly
 Mrs. Lawrence A. Dawson
 J. A. Delligatti
 Mr. & Mrs. Narcisco Diaz
 Mr. & Mrs. James L. Diggins
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard B. Doggett
 Mrs. Mary Driskill
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander W. Dromerick
 Mr. & Mrs. James J. Dumbroski
 Mr. & Mrs. William Dumbroski
 Mrs. William E. Duncan
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Duquette
 Paul A. & May Edwards
 Henry & Margaret Farrell
 James S. Fettig
 Mr. & Mrs. Leland L. Fisher
 Robert A. Flavin Family
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 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Gearin
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 Mrs. Katherine Hemming
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. Hitt
 Miss Margaret T. Horrigan
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry H. Huffer
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Istvan
 Elizabeth Betsy Jackson
 R. A. Kaltenbronn
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Kavanagh and
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 Eva J. Kenly
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen J. Koepenick
 Charles & Lynn Koiner
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 LCDR & Mrs. Robert V. L'Italien
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 Edw. T. and Mary C. McCausland
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 Aloysius Sobolewski
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 Marshall Stream
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 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Thom, Jr.
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 Marion Hudson
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 Vincent C. Scalamanadre
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 Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Wintermyer
 Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Wratten, Sr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond B. Young
 Mr. & Mrs. John D. Zell

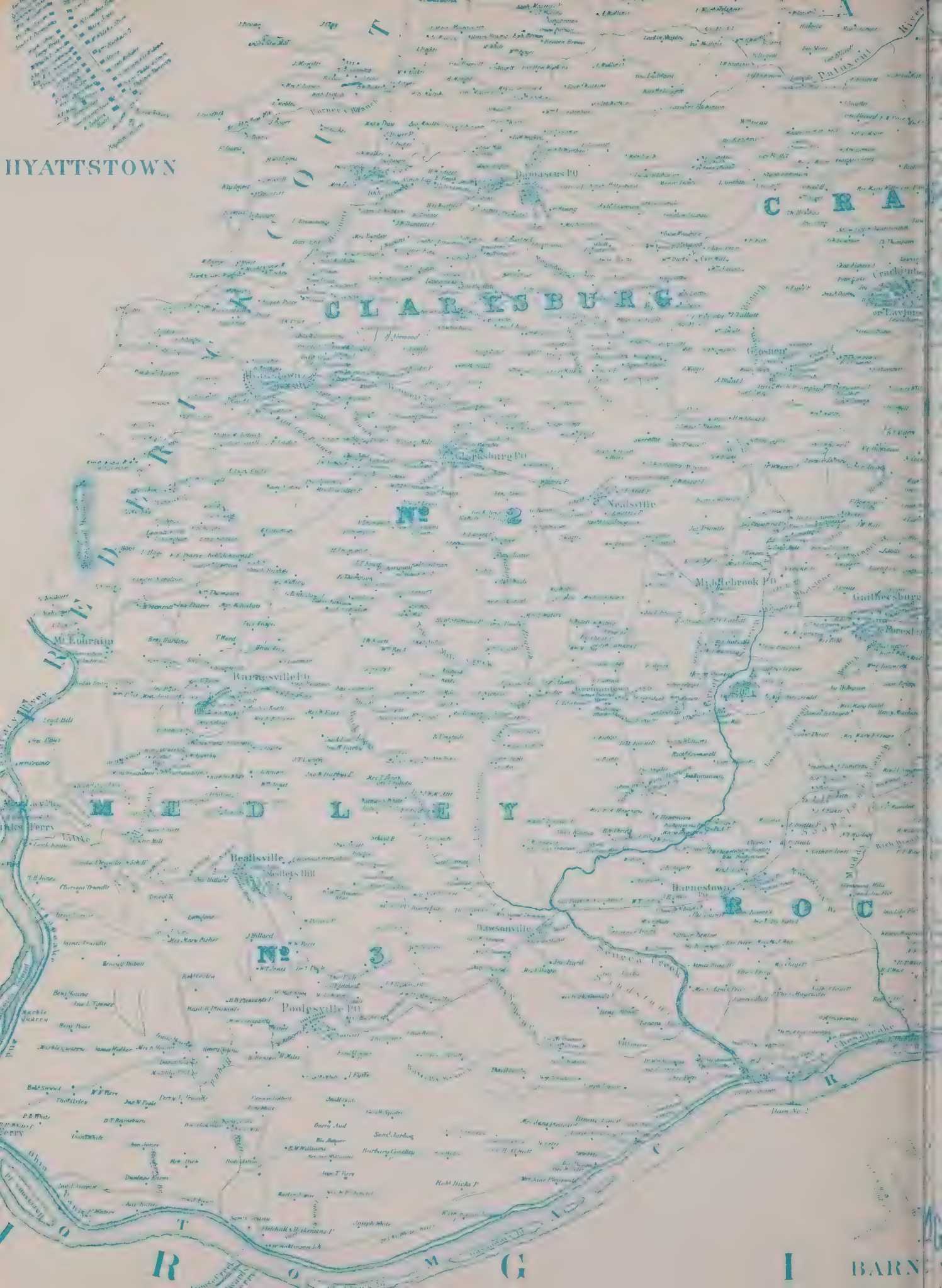


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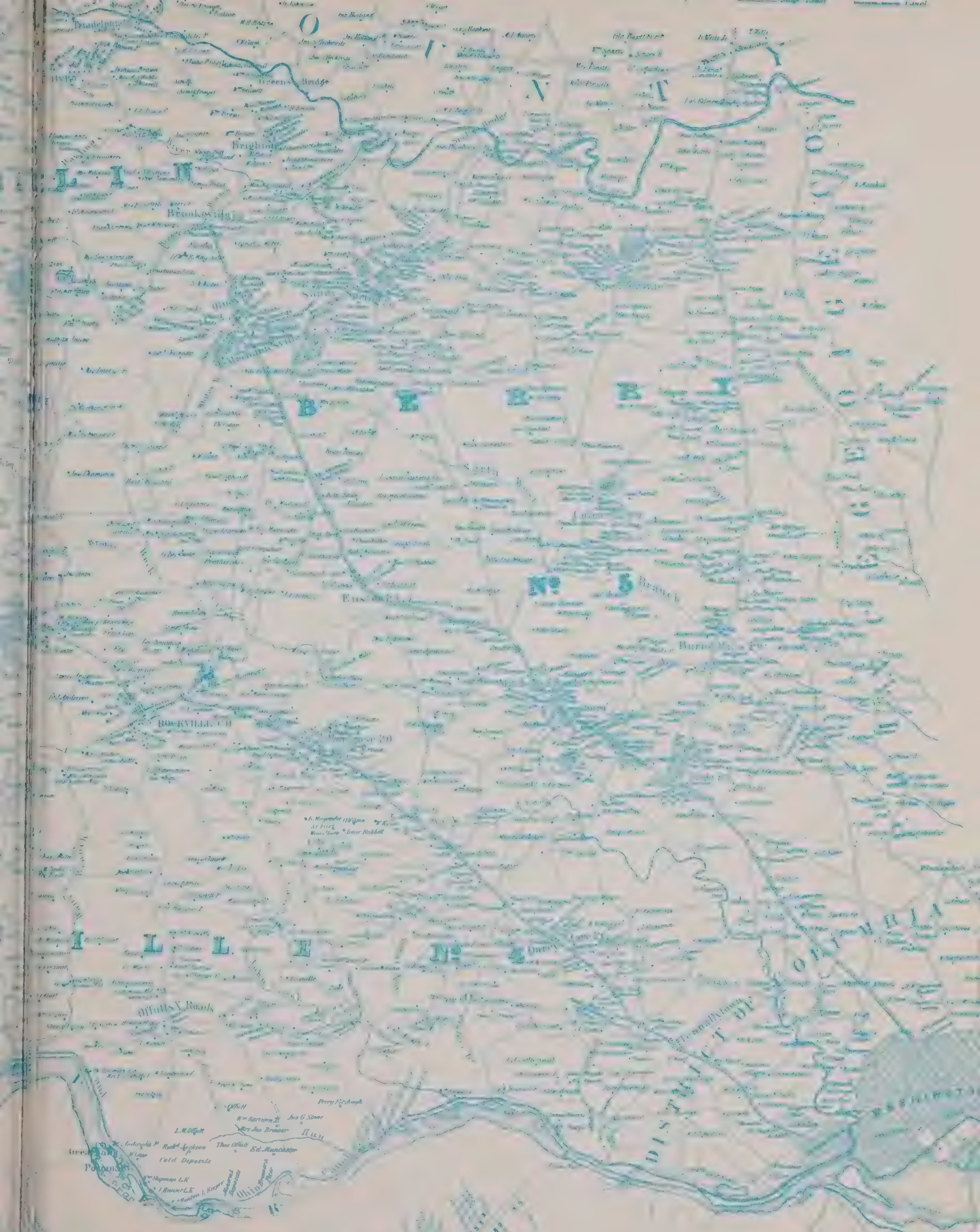
HYATTSTOWN

CLARES BURG

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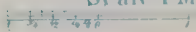
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

DARNESTOWN

Scale 1 Mile in one inch.



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